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THE TIMES

Bernard Levin: True heroes of the Soviet Union, page 12

Namibia talks fail to achieve peace formula

The South-West Africa People's Organization is to call for mandatory sanctions against South Africa after the failure yesterday of the conference on Namibia to agree on a ceasefire and implementation of the United Nations plan for the territory's independence. Swapo said the failure was due to the prevarication and intransigence of the South-African-led delegation.

Swapo seeks sanctions on South Africa

From Nicholas Ashford
Geneva, Jan 13

The United Nations-sponsored conference on Namibia has failed to achieve its main objective, which was to agree on a date for a ceasefire and for the implementation of the United Nations settlement plan for the disputed territory.

At a working session of the conference this evening, Mr Danie Hough, the territory's *Administrator-General and head* of the South African-led delegation, announced that it would be "premature" to proceed with discussion on setting a date for the implementation of the settlement plan.

His announcement came shortly after Mr Dirk Mudge, leader of the largest of the internal Namibian parties, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, had called for more time before going ahead with the plan. Mr *Mudge also ruled out the possibility* of signing a ceasefire agreement during the conference.

The reaction of the South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) to Mr Hough's announcement was swift. Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab, the Swapo spokesman, said tonight that the organization would ask the Security Council to approve a resolution calling for comprehensive mandatory sanctions, including an *oil embargo*, against South Africa.

He also said Swapo would intensify its guerilla war against South African forces operating in the northern region of Namibia. He attributed the failure of the conference to the "intransigence and prevarication" of the South African-led delegation.

However, Mr Gurirab said Swapo would continue to support the settlement plan and to cooperate with Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, in attempting to achieve its implementation. Throughout the conference Swapo has said it is ready to sign a ceasefire agreement and go ahead with the settlement plan.

At a hastily convened press conference tonight, Mr Brian Urquhart, the conference chairman, tried to salvage a few constructive points from the week-long talks. He pointed to the use of the word "premature" by Mr Hough which indicated that agreement on a date for implementation could still be reached.

It was now up to the various participants to reflect on what had been discussed and to work out how to proceed from here.

Reaction from the Western and African observer teams to the refusal of the South African-led delegation to agree to a ceasefire date ranged from despondency to open hostility.

One United Nations official said that Mr Mudge's speech, which opened up a Pandora's box of new demands and conditions, marked the "end of the Road" for the present Western-initiated negotiations, which have been going on for almost four years.

Despite all the expressions of anger and despair, Mr Mudge pronounced the conference to have been a success because it had provided the internal parties with their first opportunity to put their case directly before the United Nations. He was hopeful a solution, along the lines of the *settlement plan*, could still be found.

Mr Mudge said it would take time before the internal parties could gain confidence in the United Nation's ability to act as an impartial supervisor of elections in the territory.

"It is for the United Nations not only *to abandon its old ways* but to demonstrate over a reasonable period of time that it can and will consistently behave even-handedly."

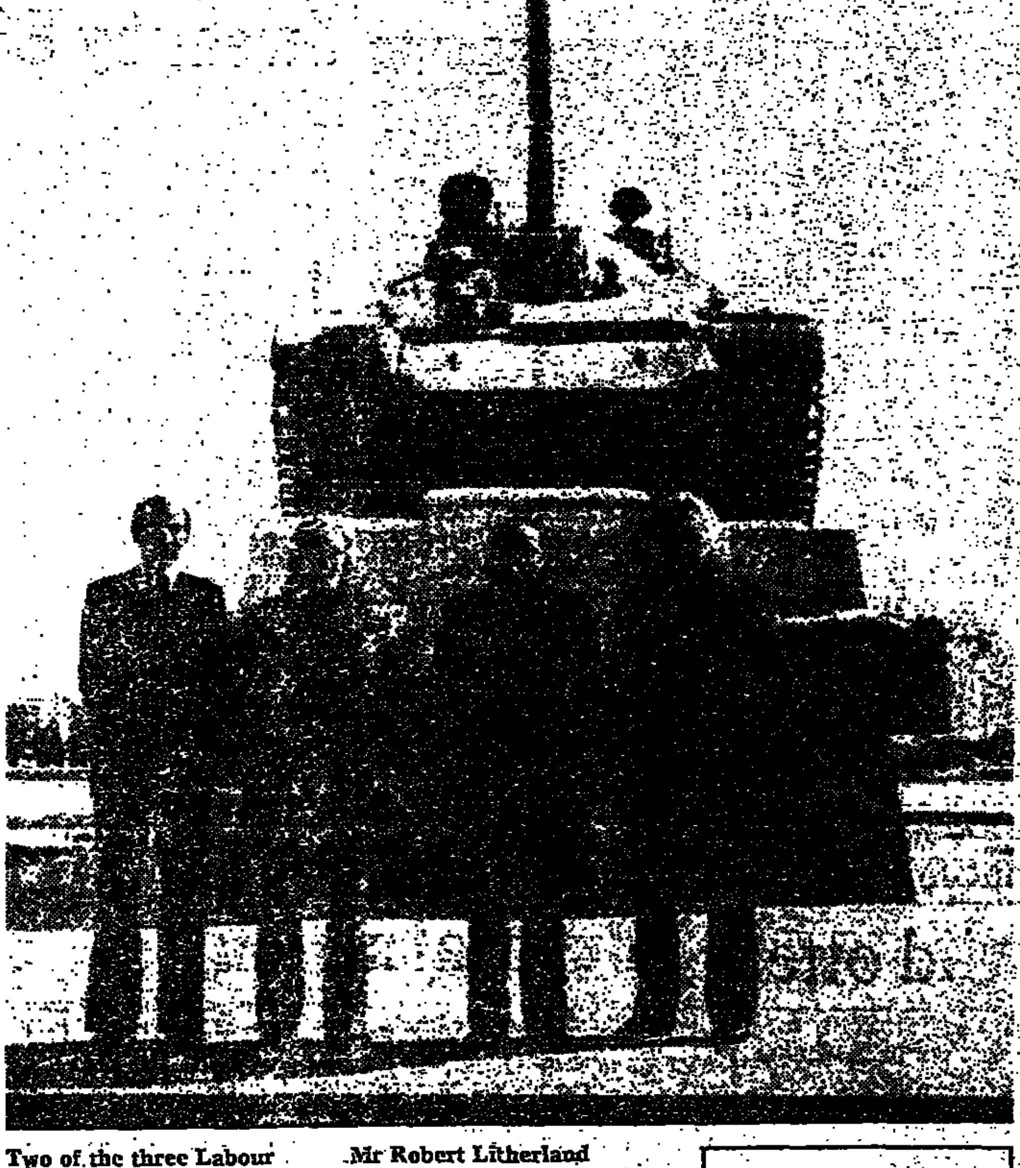
Mr Mudge did not spell out how long he considered a reasonable period of time to be.

The conference is not due to *end until tomorrow, but after* today's developments there is little more it can be expected to achieve. Swapo will deliver its closing statement tomorrow morning.

Pretoria reaction: Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said today *that he considered the chances* of a successful peaceful solution for Namibia "just about zero" unless the United Nations and the West changed their attitudes (AP reports from Cape Town).

"I have warned the United Nations and I have warned *several foreign ministers* of various European governments that they should ... halt the favouritism and bias in favour of Swapo immediately", he said.

Mr Botha said the South African Government would study the reports of the Geneva proceedings before deciding whether the talks could be revived.



Two of the three Labour MPs who visited Afghanistan earlier this month pose in front of a Russian tank in Kabul with two Afghan officials. The tank is said to have spearheaded the Russian invasion last year *and is now on display in the* capital. The visit by Mr Ronald Brown (second left), Mr Robert Litherland (right), and Mr Alan Roberts was criticized by Mrs Thatcher in the Commons yesterday. She said it offered "aid and comfort to the occupiers". The MPs denied that their visit had been *exploited for* propaganda.

MPs' denial, page 5

Carrington peace tour scorned by Mr Eban

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Jan 13

Mr Abba Eban, the Opposition Labour politician widely expected to become the next Israeli Foreign Minister, launched a bitter attack today against the European Community's proposed Middle East *peace initiative and on Britain's* role in promoting it.

In Western diplomatic circles, Mr Eban's sharply critical remarks were taken as evidence that the EEC can expect no more sympathy for its separate peacemaking efforts from a future Labour administration *than it has so far received from* Mr Begin's right-wing coalition.

Mr Eban, who is regarded as one of Israel's most moderate and articulate statesmen, chose to launch his attack at a time when Israel is gripped with election fever—political commentators are predicting an *early poll which will sweep* Labour back to power.

Addressing the Foreign Press Association, Mr Eban claimed that the European plan undermined both Israel's position and United Nations Resolution 242 because it placed too great an emphasis on the possibility of total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

He claimed that the EEC's Venice document did not take account of the integral relationship of Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian problems, and he said it granted the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) access to the peace process without extracting any "ideological or rhetorical concessions".

In a sarcastic reference to the present Middle East tour of Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Eban declared: "If I went from one airport to another talking about the need to associate the IRA in the solution of the Irish problem, I would be taken just about as *seriously as most Israelis take* the advice to associate the PLO with the Middle East negotiations."

Questioned by British reporters, Mr Eban flatly dismissed suggestions that Lord Carrington's current talks in Egypt had demonstrated grow*ing Egyptian support for the*

Continued on page 5, col 4

Mrs Thatcher stonewalls on leak accusation

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mrs Margaret Thatcher reacted indignantly in the Commons yesterday to the suggestion by Mr Michael Foot, Opposition leader, that she was the leader of the government leakers over the disclosure in some morning newspapers that *there would be no increases in* personal income tax rates in the next Budget.

She huffed and puffed magnificently at the outrageous proposal that guidance on the matter had come from her. After all, as Mr Foot soon discovered, you can accuse a government of criminal intentions but to suggest that a minister can leak a government secret goes well beyond the pale.

Had not Mr Norman St John-*Stevas, only just relegated to* the back benches, come close to apoplexy at the suggestion that he was dismissed from the Cabinet for allowing his tongue to wag too freely? Mrs Thatcher had publicly stated *that whatever else Mr St John-*Stevas may have been guilty of, he was no leaker.

In the gloomy outback of the Tory back benches, the aristocratic shape of the former Leader of the House could be seen vaguely through the gloom. But it was too dark to confirm that the loud chuckle coming from that direction as the leak charges flowed actually emerged from Mr St John Stevas himself.

Mr Foot started off innocuously enough. Would the Prime Minister care to give some help about certain matters for which she was responsible, he inquired.

What about the latest batch of Cabinet leakages and the statement that there was to be no increase in income tax in the *next Budget. Had the Chancel*lor been anticipating his Budget statement?

Mrs Thatcher assumed the expression of a parent caught out by a particularly precocious offspring. But those were leaks about decisions which had not yet been taken, she explained, ignoring the widely-held belief, at least on the Labour benches, that when mother has made up her mind, Cabinet decisions follow almost automatically.

Mr Foot pressed on courageously. He knew that leaking was rather a delicate matter and might bring back painful memories but was there any foundation for the newspaper reports? Mrs Thatcher refused to say yes and *she refused to say no.*

But she reassured Mr Foot that she was not worried about so-called leaks about decisions which had not been taken.

At that point, some of the ministers seated around the Prime Minister may have been considering whether she was *now telling them that they* could leak Cabinet secrets with a clear conscience as long as nothing had been decided.

But Mr Foot was still concerned about Cabinet plumbing. Perhaps, he suggested, it was *the right honourable lady her*self who was the leader of the leakers. She was the one who told the world about the "wets" and about their performances in Cabinet. What the Opposition wanted to know was whether the wets were now winning and whose side they were on.

The situation was clearly getting much too involved for Mrs Thatcher and the income tax leak was rapidly turning *into an uncontrollable flood. As* she sank gracefully beneath the waters, the Prime Minister's last words to Mr Foot declared that the Government was winning.

The captain of the Titanic could not have put it better and as the Labour cynics jeered, an aristocratic gurgle might have been detected from the darker fringes of the Tory backbenches.

Parliamentary report, page 8

Parties join in a demand for right to information

By Peter Hennessy

The Government will be faced this week by an all-party backbench attempt to wrest more information from Whitehall to further the work of the 14 Commons select committees established 18 months ago, shortly after the Thatcher Administration took office.

Mr Francis Pym, appointed Leader of the House in the Prime Minister's reshuffle last week, as one of his first acts as chairman of the Cabinet's QL, or Queen's Speech and Legislation Committee, will have to decide today or tomorrow whether the move should be resisted, condoned or bought off by the promise of future concessions, when the Commons debates on Friday *a private member's* motion proposed by Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, and chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts.

Mr Price is seeking to implement a recommendation that would stiffen the powers of parliamentary committees against ministers who flout the Commons' ancient right to send for "persons, papers and records", *made by the Select* Committee on Procedure in 1978 but ignored by the Government when it established the new committee structure.

If Mr Price's motion succeeds, standing orders will be changed to enable a select committee to report to the House any minister who fails to furnish the information it requires, and the Commons would be obliged to hold a one-hour debate on the matter *within six days of a motion* appearing on the order paper.

Before receiving Mr Price's motion on Monday afternoon, the Government had only issued a one-line whip to its supporters for Friday's debate, but its severity could be increased if Cabinet ministers who are convinced that the power of select committees is already too great win the day and the Government determines to kill the Price reform.

Mr Pym, who as shadow Leader of the House persuaded the Conservative Shadow Cabinet to accept the idea of select committee reform in the *autumn of 1978, is among* a minority in the Cabinet who remain sympathetic to the committee's cause. He declined to give his views to *The Times* in advance of Friday's debate, but an idea of the briefing he will receive from his civil servants can be gleaned from a private *meeting of the Study of Parlia*ment Group in Oxford last weekend.

On Sunday the conference was addressed on the subject of "The Government and the new select committee system" by Mr Wilfrid Hyde, an Under-Secretary who, with his Cabinet Office colleague, Mr Michael Townley, and Mr Edward Osmotherley, of the Civil Service Department, custodian of the 60-paragraph rule-book of "do's and don'ts" for officials appearing before committees, will be advising Mr Pym on his strategy for Friday's debate.

Mr Hyde saw little difficulty *in departments' providing* material for any non-controversial inquiries select committees might wish to undertake. But furnishing working papers on subjects that had become a matter of dispute between the political parties was another matter.

To prevent Mr Pym from talking out his motion, Mr Price will need 100 backbenchers to move closure of the debate.

Mr Gundelach's death upsets balance of European Commission

From Michael Hornsby
Strasbourg, Jan 13

A shocked European Parliament *rose to its feet here today* to observe a minute's silence after learning of the sudden death of Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the Danish Commissioner for Agriculture and Fisheries, who was 55.

He was taken to hospital last night after a heart attack at his Strasbourg hotel, and died this morning.

In a tribute, Mme Simone Veil, the President of the Parliament, expressed the House's "*feeling of very profound sad*ness". Mr Gundelach, she said, had been an "indefatigable worker for Europe, progress, and justice." He had literally "killed himself in this task".

Sir Henry Plumb, member of the British Conservative group, and chairman of the agriculture committee, which had been due to meet Mr Gundelach today to discuss this year's EEC farm price review, praised the Danish Commissioner's "total dedication to the cause of agriculture, in the EEC".

The death of Mr Gundelach is a severe blow to Mr Gaston Thorn, the former Luxembourg *Prime Minister*, at the start of his presidency. He told the Parliament that he had been "absolutely overwhelmed" by the news.

The Commission's annual negotiations with member states on farm prices are due to begin in a month, and in June the Commission is to produce proposals for reform of the EEC budgetary system, in which agriculture plays a central role.

Later this month, the Commission will be called upon to resume its delicate task as mediator in the difficult and highly technical negotiations on a new EEC fisheries policy, which broke down last month because of differences between Britain and France.

Mr Gundelach had been in charge of agriculture and fisheries policy since 1977 and had acquired a widely respected mastery of a notoriously complex subject.

Although a staunch defender of the basic principles of the common agricultural policy, he understood better than previous *occupants of the post the* need to make the policy attractive to consumers as well as to farmers. He argued the case for reform and limiting the unconditional price guarantees enjoyed by the EEC's eight million farmers.

Mr Thorn and his colleagues are *to consider how to replace* Mr Gundelach at their weekly meeting here tomorrow. Although Copenhagen will automatically be entitled to nominate another *Dane in his place*, it is by no means certain that it will be able to keep hold of the agriculture portfolio.

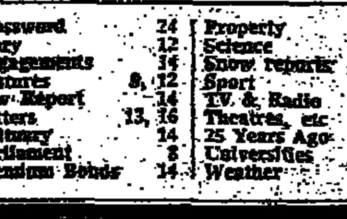
It was always intended that, after a transitional period, Mr Gundelach should hand over the fisheries part of the agriculture portfolio to Mr George Kontogeorgis, the new Greek Commissioner, who may now be plunged in at the deep end.

The word from Copenhagen tonight was that while the Danes *would be ready to relin*quish the Commission's vice-presidency held by Mr Gundelach, they would be loth to see the agriculture portfolio pass from their grasp. The front runner among Danish candidates to replace Mr Gundelach was reported to be Mr Knud Heinesen, a former Social Democrat Finance Minister.

If agriculture does go to a non-Danish Commissioner, this could result in a general re*shuffle of portfolios*. From the British point of view this was seen as having some advantage if it created a new job for Mr Michael O'Kennedy, the Irish Commissioner.

"Toughest job": Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, said in London that the post of Commissioner for Agriculture was "the toughest and most arduous of jobs". He believed that the workload borne by Mr Gundelach had "probably cost him his life."

Parliamentary report, page 8
Leading article, page 13
Obituary, page 14



Secrecy and political role denied by Opus Dei

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The headquarters of Opus Dei in Britain has issued a statement affirming its loyalty to the Pope and the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, and *criticizing The Times for* not contacting it during the course of an investigation of the organization, the results of which were published on Monday.

Opus Dei "is not in any way seeking a unique or privileged position in the church," the statement declared. It was not involved in political or business affairs, and secrecy was abhorrent to it. The main aim of members "is to love God to *the utmost of their ability*", and "to draw everyone who comes to them closer to God whether or not they are called by God to Opus Dei."

The statement in full reads:

With reference to the article in *The Times* today, the Secretariat of Opus Dei in Britain takes this opportunity to reiterate that Opus Dei is and always will remain a part of the church, desiring to "serve the church as the church wishes to be served", in the words of its founder, Mgr Escriva de Balaguer. Opus Dei has always worked in all its apostolic activities in close and loyal communion with the bishops in their respective dioceses, and it loves and venerates them as the successors of the Apostles. It *is not in any* way seeking a unique or privileged position in the church. Opus Dei has had the approval and the blessing of all the Roman Pontiffs: Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul I, and John Paul II. The spirit of Opus Dei is based on divine filiation, that is, on the joyous awareness that one is a child of God, who is our Father. The main aim of members of Opus Dei, who are ordinary Catholic citizens, is to love God to the utmost of their ability; it is this love of God which leads them in *turn, as it led the early Christians* and Christians in all ages, to do apostolate, to seek to win others to the love of Christ. The activities of Opus Dei are open to people of all religious beliefs and none, and their aim is to draw everyone who comes to them

Continued on page 2, col 1

MP alleges threat by chairman of BSC

The Commons is to debate today an allegation by Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Workington, that Mr Ian MacGregor, the British Steel Corporation chairman, threatened to end investment in Workington if the MP continued to criticize the corporation in the House. MPs will debate a motion that the matter should be referred to the Committee of Privileges. Mr Campbell-Savours said Mr MacGregor had made the threat at a meeting with him in December. Page 2

Iranian Bills on hostages delayed

Efforts to rush two Bills on the American hostages through the Majlis (the Iranian Parliament) were stalled for at least 24 hours because only eight of the nine members of the Council of Guardians who have to attend for urgent legislation were present. The delay was described as technical, not intentional Page 5

Soldier's health halts trial

The trial of two soldiers facing murder charges was halted and adjourned until today after the judge at Belfast Crown Court was told one of them had completely broken down and was *in a state of hysteria* Page 3

Army link seen in China blasts

Terrorist incidents reported in several parts of China may be linked to the delay in passing sentence on *Mao's widow*. Army commanders are said to be unhappy about the trial and it could not be ruled out that soldiers have been involved in *the bombings* Page 5

Prison dispute to end on Sunday

Prison officers' leaders agreed to recommend a return to normal work from Sunday in response to Mr William Whitelaw's offer of a phased return of prisoners from army camps [illegible] officers to consider [illegible] of a Home Office peace package. After industrial action lasting three months the officers have *failed to obtain arbitration over* meal break payments Page 2

More oil from Forties field

British Petroleum's revised estimates of the North Sea oil reserves recoverable from the Forties field show an increase of 200 million barrels, taking the total to 2,000 million barrels. The increase at today's prices is worth about $7,850m and is considered equivalent to the discovery of a new medium-sized well Page 15

British Airways strike threat

Workers at British Airways, which is to reduce some European fares as part of its plan to return to profitability, voted in favour of a one-day strike. They are dissatisfied with a proposal to defer an 8 per cent pay rise until after the end of the financial year Page 2

Seamen's strike: Critical stage reached as rank-and-file leaders decide today whether to reject the shipowners' 12 per cent "final" offer 2

Poland: Threat of selective strikes looms while the Government warns the nation of the effect of labour unrest on the economy 5

Canada: The Government introduces wide-ranging amendments to its constitutional reform package to overcome criticism 5

Nigeria: The main opposition party is accused of planning subversion 5

Classified advertisements: Appointments, pages 16, 22; La crème de la crème, 9, 10, 16; Personal, 22, 24; Residential property, 22

PC fought for gun as SAS stormed embassy

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

As the Iranian Embassy siege in London ended, Police Constable Trevor Lock [illegible] to reach a gun, Mr Justice [illegible] was told at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The fight between the policeman and Salim, the leader of the group, started as the SAS attacked the embassy, it was stated. PC Lock charged the terrorist, who lost his gun. Both men ended on the floor and the policeman drew his pistol which had been hidden *throughout the six-day siege.*

He lost his advantage as tear gas exploded round the two men. With his eyes watering from the gas, PC Lock tried to stop the terrorist reaching a gun on the floor. The door flew open, the policeman was told to move away, and the SAS killed Salim.

The story of the last minutes of the siege was told yesterday at the beginning of the trial of Fowzi Nejad, aged 23, who pleaded not guilty to the murder of two of the hostages. He pleaded guilty to other charges of conspiracy to murder, detaining PC Lock and the possession of firearms.

The court was told of the fluctuating tension in the embassy and how PC Lock saved the life of one of the hostages during an argument with the terrorists, only to hear him killed later.

A second hostage died as the SAS stormed the embassy in Prince's Gate, Kensington. He was shot when terrorists began firing on hostages after the attack.

A witness said the terrorists panicked, threw away their weapons, and the SAS burst in and killed them.

Mr Nejad was alleged to have said the plan to capture the embassy was made in Iraq, where exiles from the Khuzestan region of Iran had gone.

Trial report, page 2

HOME NEWS

PC tells of Iranian tied to pillar and shots

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Police Constable Trevor Lock, who was held captive in the Iranian Embassy siege in London, told a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday how he described to fellow officers by telephone preparations by the terrorists to kill the first of their hostages.

Giving evidence in the trial of Fawzi Nejad, said to be the only surviving terrorist, PC Lock said he was told by Salim, the leader of the terrorist group: "Tell them outside we are going to kill a hostage". He said he saw Mr Abbas Labasani, the embassy press attaché, tied to the pillar of a staircase and blindfolded.

He continued: "I said to the people outside 'They are definitely going to kill this man'. The man outside said: 'Say something, don't let them kill him'. I said the first thing that came into my head. 'Get in touch with the Foreign Office'."

PC Lock said he tried to beg for the life of the Iranian but Salim told him: 'We have been waiting long enough'. He heard Mr Labasani say he was not afraid to die. There was a shot, then a groan, followed by two more shots. Later he saw what he took to be a body wrapped in a carpet.

Mr Labasani was killed on the sixth day of the siege last May.

Mr Nejad, aged 23, from Basra, Iraq, pleaded not guilty to Mr Labasani's murder and the murder of Mr Ali Akbar Samadzadeh, a student working part-time at the embassy, a few hours before the siege ended.

Asked how he pleaded to the first murder charge, Mr Nejad told Mr Justice Park: "It was not me, sir." He made the rest of his replies through an interpreter and pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to murder, unlawfully imprisoning PC Lock and a firearms charge.

Mr Kenneth Richardson, QC, for the prosecution, said consideration had been given to accepting the pleas by Mr Nejad but it had been decided to go forward with a trial.

The trial was not superfluous, he said. When terrorists plotted to kill their hostages unless certain demands were met, and hostages were killed in pursuance of that plot, then anyone who plotted in that way was guilty of murder whether or not he fired the fatal shots or was even present.

It was not suggested that Mr Nejad fired the gun or was present at the second murder.

Mr Richardson said Mr Nejad was the sole survivor of the terrorists: Some of the others, he added, "appear to have deliberately chosen martyrdom". According to one witness, when the SAS attacked the embassy some of the occupants threw their guns out of the window, knelt down and emptied their pockets of bullets.

Mr Richardson said that according to the witness "the soldiers entered the room, took on the terrorists and killed them".

Two terrorists were killed in one room and another in another room after he had escaped. Mr Nejad got out of the building with the hostages and was then identified.

Afterwards Mr Nejad told the police the plan to capture the embassy was made in Iraq, where a number of exiles from the Khuzestan region of Iran had gone. He had said: "One of the high-ranking government officials in Iraq said the group of six had been chosen for England because England had complete freedom and would understand the case of the exiles".

Counsel said Mr Nejad told the police that the plan was to set a 24-hour deadline for the release of prisoners in Iran. If nothing happened that would be extended by two hours and then a hostage would be killed; then more at intervals until the Arab ambassadors the terrorists wanted to see arrived and an aircraft for both terrorists and hostages was arranged. The plan was not carried out, for humane reasons.

The siege began shortly after 11 am on April 30 as PC Lock was having a cup of coffee in the porch of the embassy. PC Lock, described by Mr Richardson as showing coolness and resourcefulness throughout the siege, said he saw a man outside he took to be an Iranian student.

The man, the No 2 in the terrorist group, called Faisal, pulled out a machine pistol. PC Lock said he pushed him away and closed the front porch door.

Others joined the man and there was firing. He felt a pane of glass on his face and he was pushed back as the men rushed in firing.

PC Lock added that after the hostages were rounded up the terrorists failed to find his revolver. For the whole of the siege he kept it hidden under his coat.

The hostages were guarded when they went to the lavatory, and because of the risk that they would find the gun if he undressed, he said, he ate very little to prevent too much body waste.

The trial continues today.



PC Trevor Lock after the hearing yesterday.

MPs to debate alleged threat by BSC chief

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Allegations that Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, threatened to end investment in a Labour MP's constituency if he continued criticizing the corporation in Parliament are to be debated in the Commons today.

The complaint was lodged yesterday by Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, MP for Workington, and the Speaker ruled that it should be given precedence over other Commons business. The debate will be on a motion that the matter should be referred to the House of Commons Committee of Privileges.

The Speaker, Mr George Thomas, told the Commons: "I have received a letter from Mr Campbell-Savours on a question of privilege. He alleges that at a meeting he had with the chairman of the British Steel Corporation in December last year Mr MacGregor informed him that, if he persisted in making criticisms and attacks on the corporation in Parliament, further investment in Workington would be ended."

He added: "If this is so, I am satisfied that precedence ought to be given. I therefore give precedence over other orders of the day tomorrow to a motion relating to Mr Campbell-Savours's complaint."

Mr Campbell-Savours said last night that over the last four months and some time before the announcement by BSC of its corporate plan for the industry he had sought information relating to the operations.

"Such information that I have been given has been of a verbal (sic) nature and clearly inadequate if I am to be able to present a reasoned case on behalf of my constituents to the House.

"On December 18 I met Mr MacGregor and arising out of that meeting I made representations to the Speaker."

MacGregor cooperation: Mr MacGregor said yesterday: "I am perfectly prepared to ensure that the House or the Committee of Privileges is fully aware of the facts of the meeting with Mr Campbell-Savours" (Our Business News Staff writes).

Strike looms as BA announces fares cut

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

British Airways is to reduce some European fares by between £19 and £40 from April 1 as part of its plan to return to profitability. But at the same time as the announcement yesterday, a mass meeting of BA workers voted for a one-day strike on Friday next week.

The workers are dissatisfied with a proposal to defer a pay rise of 8 per cent until after the end of the financial year on March 31. BA wants the deferment to stem the drain on its working funds. It is to top up those with loans totalling £85m which were sanctioned by the Government on Monday.

BA is expected to make a loss of £100m this financial year as a result of the world airline recession, even after introducing stringent economies.

Details of the proposed fare cuts are to be settled shortly. But they will probably result in a £276 Eurobudget return fare and an excursion return fare of £130 on the London-Malta route compared with the present economy return of £325; and £269 Eurobudget return and an excursion return of £118 on the London-Rome route, compared with the present economy return of £289.

First-class seats will be withdrawn on both routes and will be replaced by club class, with return fares of £351 and £3... respectively.

BA expects about a dozen other European airlines to follow its lead on April 1 in withdrawing first-class travel in Europe. The scheme was introduced experimentally last April on the London-Paris route, and the airline said yesterday that it had gained an additional £1.5m as a result.

Five European airlines have, however, declined to accept the BA plan. They are Swissair, Lufthansa, Iberia (of Spain), Austrian and Olympic (of Greece).

Referring to the strike call yesterday, BA said: "We cannot accept that the majority of our staff are willing to worsen our critical financial situation at the behest of the minority who voted today. We remain confident that continuing talks with the trade unions will resolve the problem in good time."

The Government of Victoria, Australia, said yesterday that it is to apply to the British Civil Aviation Authority for approval for low-cost charter flights from Britain to Melbourne.

Mr Dick Hamer, Premier of Victoria, said the submission would emphasize an untapped market of people who could not afford the present fares but would be prepared to fly on low-cost tickets.

Chemicals blamed for wiping out one of Britain's largest mammals

Legal curbs may be too late to save wild otter

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Surveys published yesterday suggest that legal protection may have come too late to save the wild otter from extinction in most of England.

Investigators who spent two years compiling the most comprehensive otter survey undertaken in Britain found no signs of the animal in waterways where it was common 25 years earlier.

The search lasted from 1977 to 1979 and showed that otters had steadily been driven towards coastlines. They were found to be prolific in the Western Isles of Scotland and absent from the Thames and all of its tributaries.

The decline of the British otter is blamed mainly on chemicals used for seed dressings and sheep dips in the 1960s but no longer used. The chemicals were found to have poisoned fish and birds and the animals like otters and foxes which eat them.

The otter is one of the largest and most intelligent of British mammals, reaching a length of up to four feet from nose to the tip of the tail.

Its speed, grace and playful nature have made it the hero of several well-known books and films. The otter now has a firm place in the affections of a vast urban populace, which is almost certain never to see one of the animals alive outside a zoo.

The Government's Wildlife and Countryside Bill, published last November, will extend to Scotland the legal protection for otters that has applied in England and Wales for more than two years.

Captain John Bell Irving, president of the Masters of Otterhounds Association, said yesterday that otter-hunting had now ceased in Great Britain. He is master of the Dumfriesshire Otterhounds, the last active pack in the country.

He looked forward without relish to pursuing mink instead of otter. The North American mink is firmly established in many of the British waterways traditionally frequented by otters.

"It is not such a good quarry", Captain Bell Irving said. "Being very much smaller animals, they do not travel such distances during a night's fishing. When you have a river bank that has been built up you find that when mink get in between the stones you cannot get terriers in to bolt them."

The Government wants the otter to be classed with such rarities as the dolphin, the mole cricket, the greater horseshoe bat and the great crested newt as creatures which may not lawfully be "killed, injured or taken".

The surveys published yesterday are based on evidence from more than 7,000 sites. The otters are seldom glimpsed by human observers. They hunt by night.

The most convincing daytime evidence of otters consists of their droppings, which they scatter liberally. Tracks are sometimes seen in mud and snow. Nearly 3,000 English sites were examined between 1977 and 1979, and evidence of otters was found in only 170 of them.

In Scotland signs were found in well over 3,000 of 4,636 sites examined. The compilers of the Scottish and English surveys were worried by the presence of many small and vulnerable colonies of otters.

The authors of the English report said: "These small populations may not be viable, and may disappear one by one." The Scottish investigators wrote: "It is clear that the otter population of Lothian region is now close to extinction."

Otter Survey of England (Nature Conservancy Council, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, £1.35); *Otter Survey of Scotland* (Vincent Wildlife Trust, 21 Bury Street, London, EC3, £2).

A Buckinghamshire otter hunt in progress. In Britain such hunts have now ceased.

Prison officers call off industrial action

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Prison officers' leaders have agreed to suspend their members' industrial action and resume normal work from midnight on Saturday. After three months Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has thus achieved his object without giving in to their main demands.

The officers have failed to obtain arbitration on a demand for back payments for meal breaks for those who have not so far obtained them, about half the strength of the service. The breaks were taken because of a need to do extra duty.

The back payments, if granted, would have cost the Government between £5m and £10m.

The officers have got the equivalent of 7.5 per cent on their basic pay if they accept the deal, which Mr Whitelaw has insisted is the way forward to a better duty system. From now on meal breaks are to be paid for, as part of a 42-hour gross working week. There is to be a three-hour reduction in the net working week.

The officers have yet to approve the deal. Mr Colin Steel, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said yesterday that the indication from many branches was that a referendum should be held after members had digested the details of the new system.

They are likely to settle, if only because, as stated in *The Times* yesterday, Mr Whitelaw has removed two of the main objections to the deal which prevented its acceptance at a special delegate conference of the association before Christmas.

Those are that all members should have a chance to consider the offer and that the return of 500 prisoners held in other accommodation should be phased.

During the dispute the officers have refused to accept more inmates than prisons are officially supposed to hold.

Misgivings remain about the details of the new duty system, mainly that it provides little cover in the evenings at top security prisons.

A big advantage of the new system is that it does away with the shift systems, which have grown increasingly complicated and difficult to understand. Differences of opinion about interpretation of agreements led to the dispute.

There is no sign yet, though, that one of the worst features of the system, the amount of overtime required, is being reformed.

No officers will be recruited above the ceiling of 16,965, which has been reached. The officers, however, say there is a squeeze on the service.

There were allegations yesterday that tobacco could be had on the black market at £2 an ounce, and whisky at £15 a bottle, at the Army prison camps.

Critical day in strike by seamen

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The merchant shipping strike moves into a critical stage today as rank and file leaders of the National Union of Seamen decide whether to endorse their national officials' decision to reject the employers' "final" 12 per cent pay offer.

Shipowners insisted last night that the wage package would be withdrawn at midnight tonight if it had not been accepted or put out to a ballot of the 29,000 ratings with a recommendation to accept.

Union officials last night confidently predicted that the 13-member lay executive would back the judgment of their three national officers and reject the employers' latest offer and the ultimatum attached to it.

Officials claimed last night that 101 ships in United Kingdom ports were yesterday affected by the industrial action and 81 across the world. Return at Dover: Thirty-seven ships, five fewer than on the strike's first day, were held up on the second day, the shipowners claimed yesterday (our Shipping Correspondent writes).

That was mainly because 15 Dover ferries returned to work after their 24-hour stoppage. The figure is expected to rise again today when Portsmouth, Southampton and Weymouth take their turn.

Statistics on acquittals are wrong

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

Home Office statistics about acquittal rates in the criminal courts were wrongly compiled, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has admitted in a House of Commons written reply.

The errors meant that published statistics which had indicated that acquittal rates at magistrates' courts did not differ much from those at crown courts "can no longer be regarded as valid", Mr Whitelaw said.

The 1979 criminal statistics, based on information reported to the Home Office by the courts, showed that the acquittal rate in four magistrates' courts was 55 per cent. The correct acquittal rate was about 25 per cent.

The errors arose because of faulty reporting of pleas in the courts, in both magistrates' and crown courts. The errors were discovered when a researcher for the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure found that her figures did not match those reported to the Home Office.

It is impossible to say whether correct statistics would show that acquittal rates in magistrates' courts were higher than in the crown courts or vice versa.

Mr Whitelaw has decided that to obtain retrospectively comprehensive and accurate information would require a large-scale exercise for which resources are not available. He is considering how best to provide details of acquittal rates in future.

In the meantime, one of the most telling statistics purporting to dispel the conventionally held belief that a defendant has a better chance of acquittal by a jury than by magistrates is now provenly unreliable.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, has been using these figures to try to ease the pressure on crown courts by persuading more defendants to be tried in the lower courts.

Liberal plan social democratic, MP says

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The first Labour MP to reply in writing to the 10-point economic recovery programme published by Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, yesterday welcomed it as being "almost entirely a social democratic programme".

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, MP for Teesside, Thornaby, a former junior frontbench spokesman, who is seen as a potential member of a breakaway Labour faction, said that any reservations he had did not relate to the objectives, with which he agreed. However, his suggestion was more that Mr Steel was joining the Labour social democrats, rather than the other way round.

He found it puzzling that there was nothing in the statement specially Liberal. He understood and sympathized with Mr Steel's desire to unite people at this difficult time and said he realized that his party had long since abandoned the old Liberal principles of laisser faire and free trade.

He added: "Naturally, I am delighted if this means the Liberal Party is now fully in the social democratic camp."

Mr Steel will hardly welcome such point scoring, however much he is delighted that his initiative in sending his statement to 400 MPs is provoking debate.

His approach is not to see a party merger but an association, eventually an electoral arrangement, with other politicians of the centre.

Another Labour moderate, Mr Michael English, MP for Nottingham, West, welcomed the proposal for electing the Lords by proportional representation.

But he wanted elucidation of incomes policy and whether it should be enforced. "Should it be made by Parliament, the Government, the CBI, the TUC, or lower down by management and labour at firm level?"

Statement from Opus Dei answers critics

Continued from page 1

closer to God whether or not they are called by God to Opus Dei. Opus Dei is in no way involved in political or business affairs, whether in Spain or anywhere else. Secrecy is abhorrent to Opus Dei. Anyone who wishes to find out about its activities has only to ask. In an article which claims to be a "detailed investigation" of Opus Dei relying on "many sources and papers", it is curious to note that a newspaper like *The Times* should not consider Opus Dei itself as a suitable source, since neither of the authors approached us for information.

The statement contains answers to several of the criticisms of Opus Dei which were reported in the course of the original article in *The Times*: that it is a "church within a church"; that it is pursuing its own ends; that it is seeking to increase its influence and prestige in the Roman Catholic Church; that it has had considerable influence in political and business circles, particularly in Spain; and that it is secretive.

The article quoted Opus Dei material to the effect that there was a characteristic teaching in the organization of "filiation", by which it was said members of Opus Dei had been incorporated into "the true earthly family" of the founder, who became their "father". The statement in response asserts that filiation "is the joyous awareness that one is a child of God, who is our Father", an implicit repudiation of the teaching attributed to Opus Dei in the article.

Doubts about the orthodoxy of the doctrine of "filiation to the father" that is, to the founder, had been raised by several theological authorities consulted by *The Times*.

Light plane destroyed

Detectives believe a fire which destroyed a twin-engine Piper Aztec aircraft, valued at £20,000, at Exeter airport yesterday was caused by arson.

Majority vote for Ford pay offer at nine more plants

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

More workers yesterday registered votes in favour of Ford's 9.5 per cent pay offer, and it became clear last night that there would be an overall majority of the 57,000 manual workforce for acceptance.

Wider difficulties facing the motor industry are likely to be brought into sharp relief today, when Vauxhall Motors is expected to announce a large redundancy programme.

The company is expected to tell union leaders that jobs will have to be shed to maintain operations. The unions fear that 6,000 of the 29,000 workforce could be affected.

Union officials from plants at Luton, Dunstable and Ellesmere Port are due to meet senior executives at Luton to hear cut-back plans outlined by Mr Ferdinand Beickler, the Vauxhall president and managing director.

After yesterday's votes at a further nine Ford plants, meetings covering more than 20,000 employees have now voted for acceptance of the company's offer.

The night shifts at the Dagenham body and assembly plants, which together employ more than 4,000 workers, early yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of the offer and the night shifts at Enfield, Belfast and Dunton followed.

There were further "yes" votes yesterday at Langley, Berkshire, Aveley, Essex, and Woolwich, London.

The 12,000 workers at the relatively militant Halewood plant, on Merseyside, are not due to start meeting until Saturday.

Labour MP jibes at Mr Jenkins over EEC salary

By Our Political Staff

In a Commons jibe at Mr Roy Jenkins, the former President of the EEC Commission, a Labour backbencher has called on him to pay back to the funds of his old party at least half of the estimated £150,000 he earned in his four-year term in Brussels.

Mr Arthur Lewis, MP for Newham, North west, observed in an early-day motion that the reported sum was "not too bad for a person who loudly proclaims himself in favour of an incomes policy for others but not for himself".

Mr Lewis contended that it was the Labour Party which had enabled Mr Jenkins to be in such fortunate financial circumstances in 1981.

328-year-old almshouses are demolished

By John Witherow

Seventeenth-century almshouses close to the village of Denton, in Lincolnshire, which had been listed as grade 2 by the Department of the Environment, have been demolished.

The planning committee of South Kesteven District Council, which decided last month to order the owners, the Welby Estate, to renovate the building, which had fallen into a state of disrepair during the past 20 years, is to meet on January 22 to decide what action to take over the demolition.

According to Save Britain's Heritage, there had been a long history of attempts to save the building, which was described as having unusual architectural details, such as bull's-eye windows, Dutch gables and a large chimney stack.

The almshouses were built in 1653.

Ambulance strike is over

From Ronald Kershaw
Rotherham

The strike of nearly 400 South Yorkshire ambulance men has ended. A meeting yesterday decided to resume work from 10 pm last night.

The dispute was about the ending of a bonus scheme which had been in operation since 1975. The National Union of Public Employees, one of the principal unions involved, said it had been agreed that a 20 per cent interim bonus payment would be made pending the settlement of a new scheme.

A joint approach was to be undertaken to explain the proposals of the Trent Regional Health Authority to ambulance staff.

The union said it was not expected that a normal outpatient service would be resumed until tomorrow.

Contempt Bill lacks balance, groups say

By Our Legal Correspondent

Two bodies have in separate memoranda strongly criticized the Government's Contempt Bill, which reaches the committee stage in the House of Lords tomorrow.

The International Press Institute and the Outer Circle Policy Unit say the Bill does not conform with the European Convention on Human Rights, or give effect to the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *The Sunday Times* thalidomide case.

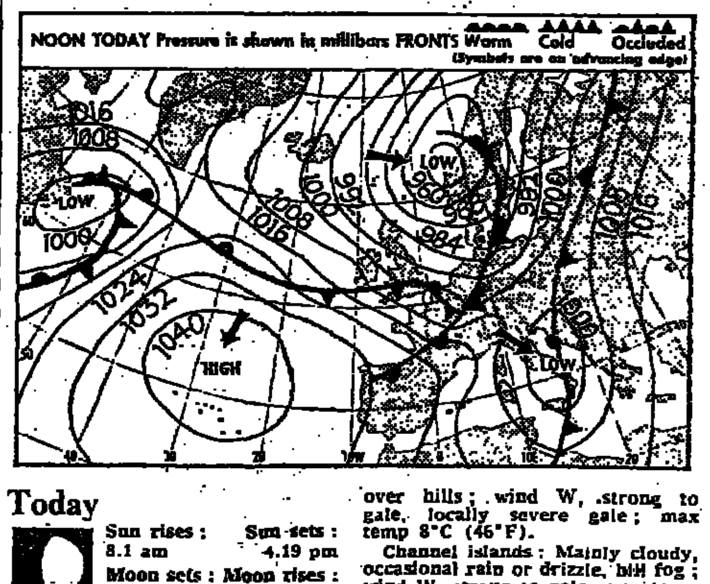
The institute's report says the Bill could impose serious new restrictions on the press.

Both organizations comment that the Bill has destroyed the careful balance between fair trial and free press struck by the Phillimore committee.

The institute believes that contempt proceedings should lie only when a publication has caused a "serious and immediate risk" of prejudice in a particular case, and that the Attorney General's consent should be sought before any action.

There should be a defence that all reasonable and practical care was taken by those involved to ensure that the publication did not create a serious and immediate risk.

Weather forecast and recordings

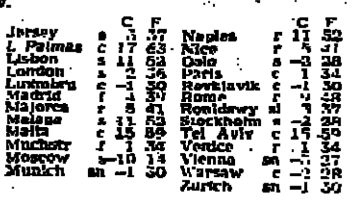


NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded



NOON TOMORROW

Today



Sun rises: 8.1 am. Sun sets: 4.19 pm
Moon sets: 1.10 am. Moon rises: 12.10 pm
Full Moon: January 20.
Lighting up: 4.49 pm to 7.30 am.
High water: London Bridge, 7.16 am, 6.4m (20.8ft); 7.47 pm, 6.3m (20.8ft). Avonmouth, 12.22 am, 10.9m; 12.45 pm, 10.9m. Dover, 4.37 am, 6.0m; 5.19 pm, 5.7m. Hull, 12.21 pm, 6.4m. Liverpool, 5.0 am, 7.9m; 5.27 pm, 8.2m.
1ft = 0.3048m 1m = 3.2808ft

A deep depression to N of Scotland with associated frontal troughs is moving SE over Britain.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE and central S England, East Anglia, Midlands: Mostly cloudy, occasional rain, clearer later, scattered showers; wind W, fresh or strong; max temp 8°C (46°F).

E, NW, Central N and NE England, N Wales, Lake District: Cloudy, rain at times, hill fog, brighter later with showers, wintry over hills; wind W, strong to gale, locally severe gale; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Channel Islands: Mainly cloudy, occasional rain or drizzle, hill fog; wind W, strong to gale, max temp 10°C (50°F).

SW England, S Wales: Cloudy, rain or drizzle at times, hill fog, clearer later with showers; wind W, strong to gale; max temp 10°C (50°F).

Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Cloudy with rain, heavy in places, hill fog, becoming brighter with showers, wintry in places later; wind W, strong to gale, locally severe gale; max temp 4°C (40°F).

Moray Firth, NE and NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Bright intervals and showers, becoming heavy and wintry at times, moderate falls of snow later with drifting; wind W, strong to gale, locally severe gale; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Cold and windy with sunny intervals and wintry showers, some moderate snowfall in N with drifting, cloud and rain or snow reaching W areas on Friday.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind W to NW, severe gale, perhaps severe gale later; sea very rough.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W to NW, strong to gale, occasionally severe gale; sea very rough.

Yesterday



London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 4°C (39°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, -1°C (30°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 64 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, a trace. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 5.6hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,020.9 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

All subscriptions rates on request.

HOME NEWS

Judge adjourns trial of soldiers as one is 'in state of hysteria'

The trial at Belfast Crown Court of two soldiers facing murder charges was halted yesterday because one of them was too ill to appear in court. Staff Sergeant Stanley Hathaway, aged 36, had completely broken down and was in a state of hysteria, Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, his counsel, said.

After a delay of 90 minutes Mr Justice MacDermott agreed to adjourn the trial until this morning.

Mr Ferguson said Sergeant Hathaway had been examined by his psychiatrist and one on behalf of the Crown. He added: "It has been agreed between the two medical experts that he is not, at this moment, fit to continue with his trial. It is hoped and anticipated that he will be in a position to continue the trial tomorrow morning."

Sergeant Hathaway and Sergeant John Byrne, aged 33, a former member of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, have pleaded not guilty to murdering Mr Michael Naan, aged 31, and Mr Andrew Murray, aged 24, a labourer. The two men were found stabbed a total of 30 times at Mr Naan's farm near Newtownbutler, co Fermanagh.

Iain Chestnut, aged 32, once a lance-corporal in The Scottish regiment, who now works as an oil rig driller in Aberdeen, has pleaded not guilty to murdering Mr Murray.

He was the only one of the three accused in the dock when Mr Ferguson told the Judge of Sergeant Hathaway's breakdown. Sergeant Byrne appeared in court just as the trial was being adjourned.

Sergeant Hathaway, who denies stabbing Mr Naan and Mr Murray, both Roman Catholics, near the Ulster border eight years ago, did not appear in the dock.

MPs refuse to promote abortion law reform

By Frances Gibb

The campaign for a reform of the Abortion Act, 1967, is virtually at an end in this parliamentary session because none of the MPs who have drawn high places in the ballot for private member's Bills is prepared to promote amending legislation.

Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove, who has won first place, does not now intend to introduce an "upper time limit" Bill to reduce the statutory time for terminating a pregnancy from 28 to 22 weeks. Instead he will introduce a Bill to curb indecent window displays.

Mr Donald Stewart, Scottish Nationalist MP for the Western Isles, who supports reform of the abortion law and has drawn second place is instead bringing in a Gaelic (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill to promote the speaking of Gaelic.

MPs say that one reason why they are not prepared to bring in an abortion Bill is the strength of opposition in the House, which would be likely to ensure any Bill the same fate as that suffered last year by the Bill promoted by Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for Ayrshire, North and Bute.

That Bill was finally lost through clumsy handling and lack of Parliamentary time after extensive debates and numerous amendments had whittled it down to a compromise measure, lowering the upper statutory time limit for terminations from 28 to 24 weeks.

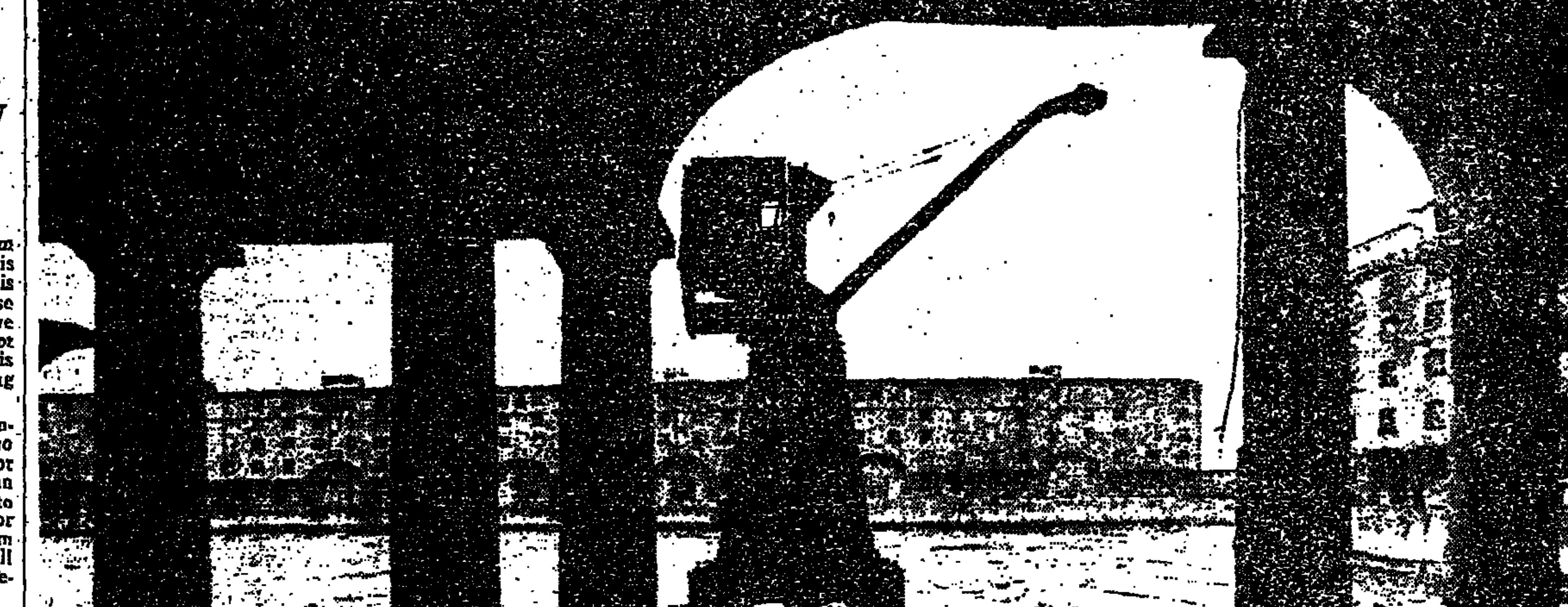
Another limited attempt at lowering the upper time limit, sponsored by Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Edge Hill, petered out after its sponsors failed to vote "Aye" in a Commons voice vote.

Another reason for MPs' unwillingness is that bodies such as the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (Spuc) is switching the focus of its attention from a change in the law to ensuring its proper implementation, possibly through the courts.

Mr Sainsbury said: "They are now pressing for implementation of the Infant Life (Preservation) Act, 1929, under which it is an offence to destroy a child capable of being born alive. That could be taken to be a foetus younger than 22 weeks, and therefore an upper limit could be a disadvantage."

There was "fanatical" opposition to any change to the present Act. "It is clear that any Bill, however limited its objectives, would still take up tremendous time in the House and no other private member's Bill would get debated."

Mr Stewart said he had studied certain possible amendments to the Act, but felt he would be unable to get them through with the present composition of the House. "I do not believe a reform will be possible until there is a change in the composition of the House."



Photograph by Frank Hermann

The long sweep of the warehouses in the eight-acre Albert Dock complex in Liverpool, which have been described in a local history as "sublime".

Inquiries bring confrontation on Merseyside and a strange alliance in the South-east

Conservationists fight scheme to fill in dock

From John Chartres
Liverpool

The eight-acre Albert Dock, regarded by many as a monument to Liverpool's more golden past, must be filled in and converted into an "Albert Square" if between 5,000 and 7,000 new jobs are to be created, it was said at a Liverpool public inquiry yesterday.

It is into proposals to convert the 135-year-old dock, in the heart of the Merseyside waterfront, unused since 1965 and now in an advanced stage of dereliction, into a trade, industry and export centre.

The main point as issue during the inquiry, which may last a fortnight, will be whether the Albert Dock and the adjoining 6½-acre Salthouse Dock will still contain water.

Many of the objectors, who include the Merseyside Civic Society, the Georgian Group, Save Britain's Heritage, the Victorian Society and Friends of the Maritime Museum, maintain that to fill in the docks would be a desecration.

Mr Peter Boydell, QC, representing Gerald Zisman Associates, proposers of the conversion scheme, maintained that water entered the dock only at certain states of the tide and that for much of the time it was filled with marine ooze.

The Zisman scheme has been approved by Liverpool City Council and planning permission has been given. The inquiry is being held because the whole site is listed Grade I, as being of historical importance.

Opponent of motorways backs ministry on abandoning extension of M23

By Craig Seton

The Department of Transport and an unlikely ally, Mr John Tyme, the veteran opponent of motorways, will be on the same side for the first time over the next three weeks at a public inquiry where they will defend the abandonment of the proposed northern extension of the M23.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in May that the project, extending the motorway from Hooley, in Surrey, to Mitcham, in south London, was to be scrapped to bring an end to years of uncertainty and blight.

The route was approved in 1968 and the department now wants to sell more than 400 homes and commercial properties it compulsorily purchased for the scheme.

The public inquiry opened yesterday at Redhill, Surrey. It is the first of its kind, and is not into the abandonment of the project itself, but into the department's proposal to revoke its statutory authority to provide a motorway on that route.

More than seventy objectors, many who want the motorway built to relieve congestion on the A23, are to put their case at the inquiry. They include several local councils, the British Airports Authority, which is concerned about access to Gatwick airport, both motoring organizations and the Road Haulage Association.

The decision to scrap the eight-mile extension, which was to have cost £100m, was taken by the last Labour government after the abandonment of the inner London ringway proposal. The department now contends that a motorway would be inappropriate because of reduced traffic forecasts and the environmental difficulties it would cause, including the loss of hundreds of homes.

It maintains that uncertainty and blight will persist until it revokes its statutory authority to build on the route. Mr Michael Howard, representing the department, said yesterday that it was intended to withdraw the motorway scheme from the roads programme.

Mr Tyme said he would speak at the inquiry against the objectors.

Air Marshal Sir Michael Giddings, the inquiry inspector, said he would rule today on the form of the inquiry.

In brief

Mr Nott tours west Belfast

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, was briefed in Belfast yesterday by Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Lawson, the GoC and other senior officers, including Brigadier Anthony Crowfoot, the Belfast commander.

He toured west Belfast in a normal looking but armoured car and fended off questions of defence policy on the ground that he was too new in the job.

Store asks Christmas shoppers to pay again

Debenhams store in Southampton is asking everyone who paid for goods in the Christmas period by credit card or cheque to pay again because £50,000 of documents were stolen in an armed robbery.

Fire deaths rise

The number of deaths from fires in the United Kingdom in 1979 was 1,096, a rise of 16 per cent and the highest figure since records of fires attended by local authority brigades were started in 1947.

Sale shoppers warned

The police warned shoppers at sales in London stores yesterday to look out for pickpockets. On Saturday the first day of the Harrods sale, nine people were arrested accused of picking pockets.

Equity fee talks

Pay talks between the BBC and Equity, the actors' union, are to be resumed in London tomorrow. The union has threatened to take industrial action if the BBC does not improve its offer of an 8 per cent increase in fees.

Ovett help for disabled

Steve Ovett, the Olympic gold medallist, yesterday helped to launch a guide book listing places with easy access for the disabled at a ceremony in Eastbourne.

Solicitor on 21 charges

Mr Brian Rowe, a solicitor, agel 49, of New Road, Haslingfield, Cambridgeshire, pleaded not guilty at St Albans Crown Court yesterday to 21 charges of false accounting. The trial continues today.

Lord Denning ill

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, aged 81, was taken ill with a slight fever yesterday and was unable to preside in the Court of Appeal. He spent the day at home.

Lancia cuts prices

Lancia, the Italian car company is to reduce prices of most models sold in Britain by an average of 5.9 per cent from today.

BL guilty of race bias in job forms

By Lucy Hodges

An industrial tribunal has found British Leyland guilty of indirect racial discrimination because it insisted that people applying for labouring jobs filled in application forms in English.

The case, which was supported by the Commission for Racial Equality, is the first of its kind to come before a tribunal. The commission said yesterday that it was pleased about the decision because it believed many employers imposed an indirect language requirement that kept Indians and Pakistanis out of manual jobs.

BL Cars Ltd has undertaken to amend the application form for hourly paid employees. In future it will be possible for others to complete the form for applicants who have difficulties with English.

When the case came before a Leeds industrial tribunal last month BL Cars pleaded guilty to indirect racial discrimination but said it had been unintentional. The company had at first denied discrimination.

Mr Kuttan Menon, the legal officer, argued that BL broke section 1(1)(b) of the Race Relations Act, 1976, which says that a person discriminates against another if he applies a requirement which on the surface is not discriminatory but which affects one racial group disproportionately.

The industrial tribunal's unanimous decision, released yesterday, upheld that point. The judgment said that BL had agreed to amend its application forms and to tell all staff that they were not intended as a test of literacy in English.

1,000 patients in trials of drug that was banned

By Nicholas Timmins

About 1,000 patients around the world had taken part in clinical trials of the anti-asthma drug, Proxicromil, before the decision to withdraw it on safety grounds, announced on Monday, was made, Fisons, the pharmaceutical manufacturers, said yesterday.

The decision to withdraw the drug, due for full marketing late this year or early next year, was made as a result of long-term toxicity tests in animals, Dr Derek Quanton, director of research and development for Fisons, said. The risk to patients, however, was considered to be very low.

Some patients in the trials, which have been run in the United Kingdom, Australia, Hongkong, Singapore, Canada and several European countries, had been on the drug for a year, he said, but most had taken it for a shorter time. Dr Quanton said such periods would be unlikely to present much risk. "My concern was more with patients who would have four, five or six years of treatment."

He refused to describe the precise nature of the difficulty.

The Fison share price continued to tumble yesterday. A further £8m was wiped off the group's market value as the price slipped 22p to a new low

High research risks, page 17

Music publishers rescue brass band contest

By Cyril Bainbridge

Because of doubts about the future of the National Brass Band Championships, Boosey and Hawkes, the musical instrument manufacturers and publishers, have agreed to finance the brass band contest at the Albert Hall, London, on October 3.

The company said yesterday that it was moved by the need to maintain a British musical institution that was the acknowledged leader in that field.

Mr W. Martin, a director of Boosey and Hawkes, said that his company hed paid out £25,000 in prize money for last year's championships. Since 1977 the contest has been organized by Band Promotions

Two strains identified in winter flu outbreak

By a Staff Reporter

Britain is suffering a moderate outbreak of influenza, with two different strains about, the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre (CDSC) said yesterday. It is not yet clear how bad this year's outbreak is likely to be.

Laboratory isolations have risen sharply in the past fortnight, but figures collected by the Royal College of General Practitioners from a sample of family doctors show, if anything, a slight decline in the number of people affected.

The centre said yesterday that both strains are variants of A-type influenzas, which cause a more severe illness than B strains.

One is a variant of "red flu", which was prevalent between 1947 and 1957, and is mainly affecting those aged under 24, with a number of large outbreaks, particularly in boarding schools. The other is a version of the Hongkong strain that first appeared in the late 1960s which is affecting people of all ages.

Figures from the Royal College of General Practitioners showed that 51 people per 100,000 suffered influenza or similar illnesses in the week to January 6, suggesting that about 55,000 people were affected that week.

Bill aims to halt indecent displays

By George Clark

Displays of sex magazines and publications bearing indecent illustrations on the covers in newsagents' and confectioners' shops would be made illegal in certain circumstances under a private member's Bill to be introduced in the Commons today by Mr Timothy Sainsbury, the Conservative MP for Hove.

His Indecent Displays (Control) Bill aims "to protect people, especially young children, from displays of what is considered 'hard porn.'", he said yesterday.

If the Bill becomes law shops displaying pornography must have adequate warning notices "indicating that the matter on show is indecent, and not allow people under 18 to enter while the display is in progress".

For the purposes of the Bill, "any matter is indecent if the whole or any displayed part of it is indecent".

A newsagent could keep "indecent" material in a separate room, with a notice saying that people under 18 cannot enter.

The Bill states that any displayed matter visible from any public place shall be deemed to be publicly displayed.

That would relate to indecent photographs or illustrations in cinemas or cinema clubs outside or in the foyer visible from the street, and illustrations outside other establishments, such as "saunas", if they were indecent.

"Public place" is defined as any place to which the public have or are permitted to have access (whether on payment or otherwise), while that matter is displayed, except a place where people are admitted only on payment, this payment including payment for the display, or "a shop or any part of a shop to which the public can gain access only by passing beyond an adequate warning notice".

Offences will carry a fine of up to £1,000 and/or imprisonment up to six months on summary conviction, and up to two years on indictment, and/or a fine.

The Bill has all-party support and comes up for second reading on January 30.

Editor refuses to meet staff on withholding of 'Now!'

By Robin Young

Mr Anthony Shrimsley, the editor-in-chief of Now! magazine, yesterday, declined to meet the journalists who are concerned about "undue proprietorial interference" in editorial matters.

About 30 of the staff requested the meeting after this week's issue was withheld from sale in Europe because an article about President Giscard d'Estaing offended Sir James Goldsmith, the magazine's proprietor.

Mr Shrimsley, who returned from holiday yesterday, posted a notice in the newsroom saying that he felt the journalists' action was precipitate.

European Parliament move: Sir James could be investigated by a committee of the European Parliament if a British Labour motion tabled yesterday is carried (Our European Political Editor writes).

Under a procedural rule Mr Richard Balfe, Labour MEP for London, South, Inner, claims that reports of Sir James's banning sales of Now! in France because of the anti-Giscard article suggest a breach of Community rules on the free movement of goods.

Jury chosen on fourth day of handless body case

From Arthur Osman
Lancaster

On the fourth working day of a hearing at Lancaster Castle which is expected to last at least until April a jury of seven men and five women was empanelled yesterday.

Within five minutes they were sent home until today, when Mr Michael Maguire, QC, will open the case for the Crown against ten men and one woman. Five men are charged with the murder of Mr Christopher Johnstone, whose handless body was found in a Lancashire quarry, and all 11 are accused of contravening the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

Yesterday's hearing was taken up with further legal submissions and argument.

Before dismissing the jury, Mrs Justice Heilbron drew their attention to the number of police officers in and around the court building. She said: "You are going to be here for some considerable time. Do not be in the slightest degree influenced, prejudiced or affected by the fact that there are these police officers around."

The trial is expected to hear from 120 witnesses, and 27 counsel have been engaged, including 13 Queen's Counsel.

EEC rights campaign by Liberals

By a Staff Reporter

A five-year campaign aimed at making the EEC subject to the European Convention on Human Rights is outlined today in a policy paper which is expected to be adopted by the Liberal Party.

The document goes before the party's standing committee on February 12 and if adopted will be the party's first statement of policy on human rights for a decade and will greatly widen its present policy, that the convention should be made part of British law. It is in line with other Europen Liberal parties' policies.

Among its chief aims are that rights such as conscientious objection and freedom from the death penalty, now outside the convention, be brought within its scope.

It urges that the convention be extended to include rights created as an aspect of political life, such as access to official information.

Drawn up by the 200-member Association of Liberal Lawyers, it coincides with the start today of the new five-year period for which the Government has agreed to renew the right of petition by individual citizens to the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

It also coincides with the Government's acceptance from today, for a further five-year period, of the compulsory jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights.

Mr Simon Hughes and Mr David Ive, for the association, said yesterday: "A well organized campaign to consolidate and develop the protection of human rights and freedoms, both in Britain and the rest of West Europe, would gather widespread popular support".

Such a campaign was particularly apt in Britain, they said. Of 246 cases so far declared admissible by the Commission of Human Rights, 87 concerned allegations of violations against Britain, and four of eight cases pending before the court result from complaints against the United Kingdom.

The paper urges as its main aim the accession by the EEC to the Convention on Human Rights. For that to be effective, the EEC would have to accept the right of individual petition to Strasbourg.

That would enable acts of the Community to be challenged before the European court;

It also proposes that certain rights in the convention, such as that guaranteeing the liberty and security of the person (article five) and that guaranteeing the right to a fair trial (article six), give the same protection as that in the United Nations human rights covenants.

NHS accounting threatened by overtime ban

By a Staff Reporter

Regional health authority computer staff began an overtime bann and other measures last night that could seriously disrupt accounting procedures in the National Health Service.

The 1,800 staff, members of the National and Local Government Officers Association and of the National Union of Public Employees, use computers that handle NHS salaries, finance and statistics, and in some cases patient records.

The two unions are to meet on Friday to consider extending the action.

The dispute is over the differences in pay between NHS computer staff and the private sector, where the unions claim salaries are between £500 and £1,000 higher.

HOME NEWS

Photograph by Harry Kerr

Hospital demonstration: Mr Conway Xavier, deputy head porter at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, in London, yesterday with some of the 200 demonstrators who were protesting against his dismissal. The hospital board of governors started hearing his appeal yesterday (Nicholas Timmins writes).

Ancillary staff at the hospital had agreed to a half-day strike to join the protest demanding the reinstatement of Mr Xavier, the branch chairman of the National Union of Public Employees. The management said, however, that only 41 of 280 porters, domestic and catering staff had joined the action. Employees from other hospitals joined the demonstration. Mr Xavier was dismissed before Christmas after the management accused him of neglect of essential duties, unauthorized absence from work and failure to behave with commitment to management "of which he is a part". Mr Xavier denies the charges.

Colleges slow to complete science PhDs may lose student awards

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

University science departments may have their "quota" places for PhD student awards reduced or abolished if they fail to achieve an acceptable standard for PhD completion rates, Sir Geoffrey Allen, chairman of the Science Research Council, said yesterday.

In an interview with *The Times*, Sir Geoffrey said the council, which gives some 2,350 new awards, averaging £3,500, to PhD students every year, was anxious to improve completion rates, not least because the council felt the writing of the thesis was an important part of research training.

A recent study by the council showed that about 60 per cent of council-funded students complete their PhDs within four years (awards are normally given for a maximum of three years). Sir Geoffrey said yesterday that he would like to see 90 per cent of students complete their PhDs within four years.

The only way to do that, he said, was to ask each department for the average completion rate of their council-funded students over, for example, a three-year period. New research studentships would then be allocated to that department only if its standard was acceptable.

Sir Geoffrey's proposals are almost identical to those of a working party of the Government's Advisory Board for the Research Councils, chaired by Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, which will be put to a special two-day meeting of the council's postgraduate training committee next week.

The working party suggests that a "black list" should be drawn up of institutions or departments in which fewer than half the council-funded research students complete their PhDs within four years. Those institutions should have their council "quota" places cut, with the surplus awards going into a common pool, it says.

Departments with completion rates of below 60 per cent but above 50 per cent would be put on to a "grey list". Their studentships would not be cut, but students and supervisors would have to produce a *description of the intended* research, signed by the department head as being a suitable topic for a PhD thesis, before studentships were awarded.

The council has submitted to the working party a list of institutions ranged in order of the PhD completion rates of council-funded students in their science and engineering departments. Birmingham's completion rate at the top of the list is twice as good as Bradford's at the bottom. Imperial College's low position is surprising.

The working party describes the discrepancy between institutions as "startling", and says there is no obvious explanation. It has to be assumed that it represents a difference in the ethos of the institutions, it says.

"If this is so, then to reform what is wrong one needs to twist the arms of the institutions rather than those of the *students*", *it adds. It recom*mends that each department's completion rates should be published as a guide to prospective students.

LIST OF COMPLETIONS

Order of institutions according to brevity in the completion rate of their council-funded PhD students. Only institutions with an average intake of 20 or more council-funded students have been included. Polytechnics have relatively few such students and are classified together.

1. Birmingham; 2. King's College, London; 3. Cambridge; 4. East Anglia; 5. Bristol; 6. Surrey; 7. Leicester; 8. Edinburgh; 9. Sheffield; 10. Southampton; 11. Durham; 12. Oxford; 13. Strathclyde; 14. Glasgow; 15. Nottingham; 16. Bangor; 17. Manchester; 18. Cardiff; 19. University College, London; 20. Warwick; 21. Swansea; 22. UMIST; 23. Liverpool; 24. Hull; 25. York; 26. Kent; 27. Aberystwyth; 28. Leeds; 29. Lancaster; 30. Newcastle; 31. Imperial, London; 32. Exeter; 33. Polytechnics; 34. Sussex; 35. Bradford.

A brisk pace for places in London marathon

By Michael Coleman

To the delight of the cameramen, the first man briskly up the steps of County Hall, Westminster, yesterday morning to deliver his entry for the Gillette London Marathon race was a civil servant, neatly suited and with brief case.

It was 8.30 am and it meant that Mr Michael Savage, aged 49, from Sanderstead, Surrey, who works for the Department of the Environment, had won "The race before the race" to earn the right to toe the line on the Greenwich Meridian on March 29. The race is over 26 miles 385 yards and ends at Buckingham Palace.

Seventeen thousand entry forms had been sent out the day before, but only the first 5,500 in the British Isles to return them will get race permits (a further 1,500 are being alloted abroad). So far competitive people like Mr Savage, the race was on as soon as the envelopes dropped through their letter boxes in the first delivery yesterday.

Mr Savage said: "I did not intend trying a marathon until I was 50, but the Gillette London Marathon was too good to miss". He last raced in 1958, when he won the Malaysia-Singapore cross-country championships, but he jogs up to 40 miles a week.

All day hopeful entrants followed him in a steady stream over Waterloo and Westminster bridges, by bicycle, taxi or bus. If not the running gear, it was their obligatory 9in by 4in brown envelopes that gave them away.

One man arrived from Somerset. "I wanted to be quite sure I was handing it over to the people who mattered." Another with an Australian accent, wanted help with his computer-bound entry form.

The phrase on it stating that "failure on your part to complete all sections will result in your entry being rejected" was turning his legs to jelly. "How can I fill in the box requesting my London borough code when I do not live in a London borough?" he asked.

Four stuffed plastic bags were in a corner. They contained applications which arrived on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week, all too late.

New grant plan may 'devastate' education

By Our Education Correspondent

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee yesterday demanded an urgent meeting with Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to discuss the "devastating effects" on education of the new block grant arrangements for distributing government money to local authorities.

Mrs Nicole Harrison, chairman of the association's educational committee, said the committee had expressed deep concern at its meeting yesterday over the inevitable damage to the education service which would be brought about by the rate support grant settlement.

The committee said the damage would be caused not only by the severity of the cuts and cash limits, but also by the decisions made on how the grant would be distributed.

The whole distribution of the grant was determined on the basis of a formula drawn up at the last moment, she said. It was geared to move the grant away from areas of great education and social disadvantage to those far less disadvantaged.

Many metropolitan education authorities would be faced with making savage cuts in their education service or imposing very large increases on the rates.

"We get the feeling that Mr Carlisle has little knowledge of how the grant system works or of the devastating effects of the decisions to which he was an assenting party, and fear he has even less interest in the results of grant decisions on inner-city schools and children.

Another authority studies abolition of sixth forms

By Our Education Correspondent

Another local authority is considering abolishing its school sixth forms. Croydon has issued a consultative paper on falling pupil numbers, drawn up by a council subcommittee, which proposes a system of 11-16 schools for the borough, with provision for 16-19-year-olds being made in a combination of tertiary and sixth-form colleges.

At present the borough has a complicated system of secondary schools involving schools for ages 11-14, 14-18 and 11-16, with the possibility of transfer for pupils from the 11-16 schools either into a further education college or into a 14-18 school.

However, the secondary population is due to fall by 40 per cent over the next decade, and it is clear that many schools will become too small to provide a suitable curriculum for pupils.

Wiltshire is to hold a series of public meetings over the next four weeks to explain its proposals to abolish school sixth forms in the north-east of the county and to replace them with a sixth-form college.

Birmingham is also considering abolishing all its school sixth forms, and Manchester has just decided to go ahead

Boy spent up to £100 a day on space machine

From Our Correspondent
Wolverhampton

A schoolboy, aged 13, stole hundreds of pounds to satisfy his obsession, a space inbaders machine, magistrates at a juvenile court at Dudley, West Midlands, were told yesterday. "It was the only thing he stole for", Inspector John Day, for the prosecution, said.

The court was told that the boy even stole money collected for a relative's funeral, and he squandered up to £100 a day shooting down the little green space ships. Mr Day said: "It seems that all of the money outstanding has been spent on the space invaders machine."

The boy admitted stealing a total of £321, mainly from his family, and he was put into care.

Council's finance director faces internal inquiry

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Mr J. E. Halligan, director of finance on Lambeth council, in London, has been suspended on full pay pending an internal inquiry

The suspension, ordered by Mr Frank Dixon-Ward, chief executive, took effect shortly before the council met on Monday to debate, and approve, a 20p supplementary rate to make up an £11m deficit this financial year.

It is understood the suspension came after an argument between the two men over a report prepared by Mr Halligan.

A statement issued by the council yesterday said Mr Halligan had been temporarily relieved of his duties. "The reason concerns a matter of corporate management", it said.

"There is no suggestion whatsoever of impropriety in the management of the council's finances. This will not be an issue at the inquiry which is to be held. Nor is the matter related directly to the financial problems which face Lambeth and other authorities."

Mr Halligan, aged 60, has been with the council since 1965. His report was on the financial assumptions for next year's council spending and mentioned the possibility of a rate increase of nearly 50 per cent.

It also contained an assumption of rent increases, and it appears that a lack of liaison between the council's corporate management team led to the dispute.

The inquiry is to take place as soon as practicable, a council official said.

Not proven verdict frees boy in rail death case

A charge of culpable homicide against a boy aged 12 was found not proven at Greenock Sheriff Court, Renfrewshire, yesterday. It was alleged that he killed a woman of 57 by pushing a brick over a railway parapet.

The boy had pleaded not guilty to killing Mrs Thomasina McAlinden, of Roxburgh Way, Greenock, at Greenock West railway station last June.

Mrs McAlinden had just got off a train and was walking under the parapet when she was struck by the brick. The prosecution had claimed that the boy was responsible.

The boy denied that, saying that he was not there at the time. In a special defence of impeachment, he named a boy of 10 as being responsible.

Mrs McAlinden's skull was broken and she died in hospital three days after the incident. The boy had been charged first with attempted murder, and then with murder, even though she was still legally alive.

She was on a life-support system in hospital and it was not until two hours after the boy had been charged that the machine was switched off and she was pronounced dead.

Greater Glasgow Health Board officials said at the time that brain death took place at 3 am but as permission was being sought to remove her kidneys for transplant, Mrs McAlinden's heart was kept beating by the life-support

6,000 demand ban on march

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

More than 6,000 people have signed a petition calling on Mr John Woodcock, the Chief Constable of South Wales, to ban a march which the Provisional Sinn Fein plans to hold in Cardiff to commemorate Bloody Sunday.

The petition has been organized by Mr Nolan Smith, a South Glamorgan county councillor, who said yesterday that he feared violence if the IRA supporters were allowed to march through the city on Sunday week, to commemorate the day in 1972 when 13 demonstrators in Londonderry were killed by troops.

Since handing in the petition *Mr Smith has received a further* 1,000 signatures.

The event has been recalled each year by Sinn Fein with annual marches through British cities.

Mr Nolan said: "We fear that it could cause tension and even violence in the community where none existed before".

Sinn Fein says it expects at least 1,000 supporters to come to Cardiff for the march. The National Front has decided to hold a counter-demonstration, and the Anti-Nazi League says it will demonstrate against the Front.

Those moves have increased the pressure on Mr Woodcock to ban the Sinn Fein march on public order grounds. A spokesman for the chief constable *said that he was still consider*ing the matter.

WEST EUROPE

Predictable Paris anger greets Thorn threat to sue France for withholding payment

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan 13

France has reacted with predictable anger to the threat yesterday by Mr Gaston Thorn, the new President of the European Commission, to prosecute any member-state which failed to pay its full contribution to the 1980 supplementary budget.

Like West Germany and Belgium, France has claimed that the supplementary EEC budget—which would make more money available for non-agricultural spending—was only passed by an irregular procedural device. Unlike the other two partners, however, France has made it clear that it is not prepared to pay up to avoid a political crisis.

Mr Thorn's warning, given in his inaugural address in Strasbourg yesterday, has not altered the thinking of the French Government.

M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, emerged after talks on the matter with President Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysée last night to say: "I do not see why the French Government should modify its position. M Thorn can say what he likes. The French Prime Minister puts forward the position of the French Government."

However strongly Paris feels about the budget, it can nevertheless be of little comfort to M Barre that only the French Communist Party Members of the European Parliament voted in support of his position. Even the Gaullists—in open defiance of their party leadership—supported the supplementary budget.

According to their parliamentary leader, M Christian de la Malène, "there is a judicial problem which they do not understand in Paris".

The Gaullists believe, like Mr Thorn and Mme Simone Veil, the president of the European Parliament, that legally the supplementary budget must stand. Mme Veil, whose candidature was strongly supported by M Barre when she stood for election to the European Parliament has been strongly criticized by the French Government and especially the Prime Minister for allowing the budget to be carried.

M Barre's dilemma is summed up in the Gaullist daily newsletter—on one of the rare recent occasions when he has won support from that quarter.

"The French Government has an unattackable judicial position, but a much weaker political position", *La Lettre de la Nation* said.

"The only important interest in this affair is political, for it is less a case of saving a few millions than of refusing to enter into a growing involvement leading, as Raymond Barre says, to a sort of financial tyranny by the European Assembly."

In other words the French Administration is gravely worried that the supplementary budget is only the thin end of a wedge which will give the European Parliament more and more power over Community finance.

At any time that is a possibility that any government here would be certain to oppose strongly. But with the presidential elections looming, it is doubly important for President Giscard d'Estaing to be seen taking a firm stand against what is being hailed as an attack on national independence.

Judge thinks papers can save him

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 13

A letter was found today from Judge Giovanni D'Urso, who was kidnapped a month ago by the Red Brigades, in which he asked for his gratitude to be expressed to his wife for her attempts to save his life.

The letter, regarded as authentic was picked up in a square in central Rome after a telephone call was made to the Socialist Party newspaper *Avanti!* a few minutes before a deadline set by the judge's captors for his killing expired at 2 pm.

Addressed to Signor Ugo Intini, editor of the paper, the letter thanked him for the attitude of *Avanti!*, which alone of the major dailies has been willing to publish the proclamations of Red Brigades members in maximum security prisons.

Dr D'Urso said in his letter that it was well known that "the trial to which I have been subjected has been concluded with my sentence to death". This sentence, however, could be avoided if the most important newspapers published the communiqués issued by prisoners in Trani and Palmi jails.

The judge appealed to these papers to do so. "The sense of humanity should prevail" he said.

He began his letter by saying he had heard of an appeal made by his daughter, Lorena on television last night. I ended: "Lastly, a prayer in case I should not see my wife again. May you, Mr Editor, tell her of my gratitude for what she has done, unable (as I am) to count on anything but the strength of her love for me and our daughters."

At Palmi prison, in Calabria magistrates today questioned 1[illegible] extremists who have been charged with complicity in the kidnapping. Another 65 have already been charged at Trani prison in Puglia, where a revolt was suppressed at the end of last month.

The Rome public prosecutor has taken this action on the grounds that they had identified themselves with the kidnapping. If the judge is killed they could be charged with complicity in his murder.

From questioning these prisoners, it is hoped to obtain information that would lead to the hide-out where Dr D'Urso, a senior official in the Justice Ministry's prison department, is being held—presumably in or near Rome.

The authorities are also searching for Signor Giovanni Senzani, a criminologist and an alleged Red Brigades envoy who gave a long interview to the weekly magazine *L'Espresso*.

Interpol has been informed of the search in case Signor Senzani, who speaks English, is abroad.

Prison doctors oppose hunger strike feeding

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 13

The trial of 17 Corsican autonomists is due to open before the Court of State Security tomorrow despite the fact that six of them are now said to be too ill to move after 63 days of a hunger strike.

Three are on drip feeds, against their wishes and despite the view of the chief doctor for the prison of Fresnes, where they are held, that these drips are ethically wrong.

Two of those being kept alive by the drips have already started legal proceedings against the doctors who have been treating them. All six are seeking to take their case before the International Court of The Hague, claiming they have wrongly not been allowed bail pending their trial.

Whatever the eventual outcome of the case, the long hunger strike has started a long polemic in medical and legal circles over the ethics of force-feeding prisoners. These are brought to a head in an article in this week's medical magazine, *Tonus*.

Dr Eugene Forget, the chief doctor at Fresnes, says in the article that he had refused to give drips to any prisoners on hunger strike without their agreement. He contested the intervention on the Corsican hunger strikers, saying that there should be "respect for the moral liberty of prisoners".

He said he and his team would have nothing to do with giving drips to the Corsicans. The policy he had adopted had been consistent throughout the past year, duing which time there had been 100 on hunger strike at the prison.

In another interview in the magazine, Mme Solange Troisier, Medical Inspector General of Prisons, stated: "Nobody has the right to put an end to his days." Comparing the hunger strike to suicide she *said that "despite the ferocious* determination of the Corsican prisoners, we will not hesitate to have recourse to forceful means."

M Alain Peyrefitte, the Minister of Justice, made it quite clear last week that he did not intend to give in to the demands of the hunger strikers. They were, he said, carrying out a blackmail against justice itself.

In a letter to *Le Monde* today five of the defence lawyers for the trial, say that the hunger strike is the only weapon available against "the arbitrary". It is not, the letter says, a question of blackmail, but "the expression of courage and dignity, to their extreme limits, despite the medical constraints which are never voluntarily accepted and which are sometimes judged to be a serious breach of medical ethics".

The six hunger strikers, two other prisoners and nine others who were released on bail are charged with kidnapping and being members of an armed gang a year ago. This was after an attempt to capture two men whom the autonomists believed were responsible for carrying out a terror bombing campaign against them.

Holland and Peking to reduce their ties

From Our Correspondent
Amsterdam, Jan 13

A crisis has developed in the diplomatic relations between The Netherlands and China in the wake of the Dutch Government's *decision last November* to go ahead with the sale of two submarines worth more than £200m to Taiwan.

The Dutch Foreign Ministry said today that Mr Johannes Kneppelhout, the Dutch ambassador to Peking, would probably have to leave his post next week. Unless Holland revokes its decision to sell the submarines by the middle of this month Peking will reduce diplomatic relations with The Netherlands to the level of office of chargé d'affaires, a step described in The Hague as just short of breaking off diplomatic relations.

Mrs Dingh Xuesong, the Chinese Ambassador in The Netherlands, has not been at her post since the end of October when she went to Peking to prepare for the visit to China of Mr Andries van Agt, the Dutch Prime Minister, in November.

As the possible sale of the submarines became public knowledge on the day of Mr van Agt's return from China it is assumed that that is the reason why she has not yet returned.

15-year expulsion by Swiss for American

Geneva, Jan 13.—A Swiss court today sentenced a Syrian-born American woman of Armenian origin to 15 years' expulsion and an 18-month suspended prison sentence for extortion.

Miss Suzy Mahseredjian, who is 27, and a law student from California, was acquitted on a second charge of illegal possession of explosives.

She was found guilty of extorting 10,000 Swiss francs (£2,380) from Armenians living in Geneva to finance the terrorist activities of the Secret Armenian Liberation Army.

She appeared without her companion, Mr Alexi Yenikomoushian, a Lebanese, aged 25. The two were arrested on October 3 when a bomb exploded in their hotel bedroom. Mr Yenikomoushian, who lost an eye and a hand in the explosion, will be tried later.—UPI.

Paris explosion: The Secret Armenian Liberation Army today claimed responsibility for an explosion in the car of Mr Ahmet Erbeyli, Financial Counsellor at the Turkish Embassy, while he was driving in a Paris street, He escaped injury.—AP.

Supreme Court rejects appeal in Menten case

From Our Correspondent
Amsterdam, Jan 13

The Supreme Court of The Netherlands today rejected the final appeal by Pieter Menten, the 81-year-old Dutch millionaire and art collector against his conviction last July of war crimes. It upheld the sentence imposed by a Rotterdam court of 10 years in prison and a fine of 100,000 guilders (about £20,000).

A 10-year sentence on "an old sick man" was perfectly acceptable because of the gravity of the crime, the Supreme Court held. It did not consider the punishment to be contrary to the European Human Rights Convention.

The Rotterdam court had rightly concluded, the higher court found, that while it was impossible to ascertain the exact role played by Mr Menten in the mass execution of between 20 and 30 Polish nationals mainly Jews, in 1941 his guilt had been sufficiently established.

Shell role in supplying oil to South Africa revealed

From Robert Schuil
Amsterdam, Jan 13

A Dutch report today revealed the importance of the role played by Shell tankers in supplying South Africa with crude oil.

According to the report 26 tankers either belonging to Shell or under charter to it unloaded at South African oil terminals between January, 1979, and March, 1980.

The report, entitled "Oil Supplies to South Africa, the role of tankers connected with The Netherlands and The Netherlands Antilles", was compiled by the Shipping Research Bureau in Amsterdam.

The bureau, which was set up by the Dutch Committee on Southern Africa—the main anti-apartheid lobby in The Netherlands, said that most of the oil was loaded in The Netherlands Antilles, where there were three important trans-shipment facilities.

The involvement of the Dutch-British company in supplying oil to South Africa seems to show the big effect that the Dutch oil boycott of South Africa could have if this boycott also encompassed transportation.

It has been assumed that Dutch oil exports to South Africa were of only marginal importance covering about [illegible] per cent of its needs.

According to the report however, a total of 42 tankers—including the 26 Shell tankers connected with the Netherlands—had unloaded in South Africa during the stated period. This the report alleges, represents about 60 per cent of South Africa's needs.

Last June the Dutch Government survived a motion of censure by two votes in the Lower House after its refusal to impose a unilateral oil embargo against South Africa. The Government promised to investigate the possibilities of applying economic sanctions against Pretoria in cooperation with the other two Benelux countries and the Scandinavian nations.

Rock group are sentenced in their absence

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 13

The three members of the British rock group The Stranglers were given suspended prison sentences in their absence by a court in Nice today for inciting an audience in the city's university last June to smash everything up.

Mr Jean-Jacques Burnel, aged 27, the group's leader, was given a one-year suspended sentence and the other two, Mr Brian Duffy, aged 38, and Mr Hugh Cornwall, aged 28, were given six-month suspended sentences. They were also ordered to pay costs of 17,800 francs (£1,780). They all come from London.

At the previous hearing in December, at which all three were present, their lawyer told the court that they had already paid the university 80,000 francs for the damage.

Abortion law upheld

Rome, Jan 13.—Italy's highest court has ruled as constitutional a 1978 law allowing free abortion on demand for women aged 18 and older and abortion *with the parents' consent* for younger women.

Madrid fight for Eurocommunism

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Jan 13

The Spanish Communist Party pledged itself today to an all-out fight to reconquer the Eurocommunist positions lost at the Catalan Communist Party's congress last week in Barcelona. This congress was a resounding defeat for the policies of Señor Santiago Carrillo, the veteran national party leader at the hands of pro-Moscow communists.

A declaration issued today by the national party's executive after a series of tense meetings during the past few days only just stopped short of naming the Soviet Union.

The Spanish Communist Party (PCE) executive noted that the Barcelona decisions were "part of a wider offensive against Eurocommunism". The declaration then proceeded to restate forcibly the Eurocommunists' rejection of any notion of the Soviet Union or the Soviet Communist Party as a "guide" for other nations' communist parties, the theory dear to President Brezhnev. It also repeated the PCE's public criticism of the Soviet Union over Afghanistan, Czechoslovakia, and Poland.

The other political parties in Spain have been watching for the PCE's reaction since the Catalan Communists rejected Eurocommunism, and with it the parliamentary road to power, by 424 votes to 359 last week. The Catalan Communists account for eight of the 23 communist deputies in the Cortes (Parliament), and wield even greater influence throughout the entire labour movement.

A new combativeness on the labour front has already been noted after the Barcelona decisions in the national wage negotiations going on in Madrid.

Interest is heightened because Señor Carrillo has come under serious attack from the younger party members for his handling of the party affairs. Many believe indeed that the Catalans' offensive originally had the tacit approval of Señor Carrillo's younger opponents in Madrid, restive with his iron control of the party. But the pro-Soviet elements in Barcelona then went farther than expected.

Señor Carrillo is fighting to retain the secretary generalship of the party at the coming tenth congress. His best means of defence is to link up his own survival in office with the cause of Eurocommunism in general. A majority of the national party leadership support Eurocommunism but they argue that it ought also to mean more democracy within the party structures.

The pro-Moscow Catalan Communists were able to exploit the underlying discontent with Señor Carrillo in view of his repeated attempts to bring the Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia (as it is known) to obey the party line issued in Madrid. The pro-Moscow group exploited Catalan regionalism on this point.

Today's statement tells the Catalans that their decisions mean a "grave setback" for Communism in Catalonia, with "very negative repercussions in Spain and elsewhere in Europe."

The Catalan Communists have evolved to a position close to the Italian Communists. But observers have noted how the language used by the victorious delegations from Barcelona's industrial belt last week bore striking resemblance to Soviet propaganda publications.

Today's statement also shows that Señor Carrillo's critics, having reestablished the principles of Eurocommunism, are insisting that the warning from Barcelona is heeded.

Above all, the party is to review critically, it says, its whole line of conduct since Spain became a democracy. The statement signals that in future the party will seek to bring more pressure on the Government to tackle working class problems, like unemployment.

Thus Señor Carrillo will seek at the party congress to protect his flanks from critics who assert that since the PCE was legalized in December, 1976, its top officials have shunned the old communist struggle on be half of the working people.

Firmer line taken by Polish leaders as selective strikes near

From Dessa Trevisan
Warsaw, Jan 13

The threat of selective two-hour warning strikes looms for tomorrow while the Polish Government continues to warn the nation about the effect of labour unrest on the economy.

In a hardening of the Government's position, several top leaders have over the past few days accused the *Solidarity* union militants of deliberately trying to increase tension without any real ground for it.

The party central committee is to have a plenary session soon, possibly before the end of this week.

It is still however not clear as to whether the two-hour strike will be on a national scale in selected factories or concentrated around Rzeszow in the south of Poland.

There is much confusion as the local union leaders claim to have Solidarity support, and the union representatives in Gdansk while suporting their claim are obviously most reluctant to back them up by a demonstration on a national scale.

The trend in southern Poland is that local grievances are presented as of national concern and local union leaders claim to have the consent of the national union committee.

Last night for the second time the Government decided to use force in order to clear a public building, this time in Ustrzyki Dolne where some 60 militant farmers have been occupying the premises and demanding recognition of their rural Solidarity union which is still being delayed.

In Nowy Sącz, demonstrators left the occupied premises the previous night, when the police moved in.

Solidarity's national committee which has its headquarters in Gdansk, decided to support the farmers' demands but in a way that would cause the minimum loss to production.

Mr Jozef Pinkowski, the Prime Minister, yesterday appealed to coalminers to work on Saturdays because of "dramatic consequences" for *the country if coal production* continued to fall.

The trouble is, however, that the Government bound itself by an agreement in Jastrzebie, the centre of coalmining, last September to concede a five-day week to the miners. Obviously it is unable to carry out the agreement without loss in production. Mr Pinkowski said that coal production would drop by 43 million tons if the five-day week were introduced.

Walesa mission: Mr Lech Walesa, the Polish trade union leader, arrived in Rome today *on his first visit abroad* at the head of a Solidarity delegation of 14 for a seven-day stay in Italy (*John Earle writes from* Rome).

Applauded and nearly *mobbed by photographers and* passengers at Fiumicino airport, Mr Walesa found waiting for *him his step-father, Mr Stanislaw Walesa,* who had arrived from the United States.

The delegation was welcomed by representatives of the Vatican led by Mgr Giovanni Coppa, *of the Secretariat of State,* as well as by the leaders of the three Italian trade union confederations. For the first two days the delegation is the guest of the Church, and for the rest of the Italian trade unions.

The visit got off to an undiplomatic start when in an interview with an Italian newspaper before leaving Poland Mr Walesa said: "If it were not for the Pope, I would not have made my first trip abroad to Italy."

He told the Italian trade unionist leaders at the airport today: "I have come to visit the Pope. There are very important reasons for this visit."

To this Signor Luciano Lama, the Communist secretary general of the General Confederation of Italian Labour, replied that he understood this, but the unions also wanted *to* show their guests something of the reality of Italy.

The Italian trade union movement, including its Communist element, has strongly supported the growth of Solidarity, and sent a delegation to Warsaw at the time of the Gdansk demonstrations last August, although the Italians were not allowed by the Polish Government to go to Gdansk.

In the afternoon Mr Walesa, *accompanied by his wife* and step-father and by other members of the delegation, visited St Peter's Basilica, and the crypt with the tombs of Popes.

After an audience with the Pope on Thursday morning, Mr Walesa will move from a pilgrims' hostel to a hotel for talks with the Italian trade union leadership. Friday will be devoted to meetings with different trade unions.

Anti-socialist forces: Anti-socialist forces are trying to turn the Solidarity trade unions into a political opposition party, Mr Stanislaw Wronski, a member of the Polish party Central Committee said in an article published in *Pravda* today "The mighty Soviet Union is needed by Poland, as a strong socialist Poland (is needed) by the Soviet Union".

He added: "The concern of our socialist frinds, and especially the Soviet Union, about the situation in Poland and events weakening is force, is understandable."

Although the article was said to be contributed by Mr Wronski, its views almost certainly reflected those of the Soviet leadership. —UPI.

Mr Lech Walesa accompanied by his step-father visiting St Peter's Basilica yesterday.

Labour MPs deny visit to Kabul was exploited

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Three Labour MPs who visited Afghanistan earlier this month denied yesterday that they had been exploited for propaganda purposes by Moscow. They urged the British Government to "recognize" the *regime, and said that from what* they had seen in their five-day visit, the Afghanistan *Government was in control of the* country.

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime *Minister, answering questions in* the Commons, said that by going to Afghanistan the MPs had given "aid and comfort to the occupiers". Speaking on television last night Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said he thought the three had "made asses of themselves"; but there was no need to rub it in.

Two of the MPs, Mr Alan Roberts (Bootle) and Mr Robert Litherland (Manchester, Central), who met officials at the Foreign Office yesterday to report on their impressions, said they had been free to travel where they wished and meet whom they wanted, though language difficulties prevented them from having much contact with the Afghan people. They said their visit had reinforced their view that socialism could not be carried through by the gun, and called on the Soviet Government to withdraw its troops immediately

Mr Ronald Brown (Edinburgh, Leith), who did not join the Foreign Office meeting, *and was more critical of official* British policy than his colleagues, said he *did* not know *if the Soviet troops had been* invited into Afghanistan or had come in of their own accord. *If invited, that was a matter* for the Afghan Government.

Mr Brown said many of the *reports in the British and* Western press about Afghanistan were false. President *Babrak Karmal had told them,* he said, that Soviet troops were a reserve, and would leave the *country immediately* Afghanistan's neighbours respected its borders.

He *said he had not visited* the Foreign Office with his colleagues because "it would just *mean giving information to the* Tories." Mr Roberts said the officials heard their views with *great interest. They had also* seen Mr Denis Healey, Labour spokesman on foreign affairs.

The Foreign Office pointed out last night, however, that Britain no longer recognizes *governments, only states.* The present position is that while diplomatic relations have not been broken, *the British* chargé d'affaires in Kabul has no substantive dealings with the regime.

What the three MPs want, they made clear at a press conference at the Commons yesterday, is "negotiations" with the regime in Kabul. *They* said that the Afghan leadership was ready to enter into talks with Pakistan *and* Iran on *the* frontiers question.

"Obviously sitting down and talking with *them* implies recognition," Mr Roberts said. Mr Karmal had spoken of "direct *negotiations*", Mr Roberts thought that the initiative could come from the United Nations, though the *Afghan* regime had little confidence in it.

Pakistan is reported to be pressing for talks under United Nations sponsorship, but it is still not clear whether the behind-the-scenes contacts at the United Nations are making progress.

Answering press questions, the three MPs strongly defended their right to see the situation for themselves in Afghanistan, and supported the aims of the present regime as being "moderate", compared with the Amin regime which had "lost faith with the people".

The Soviet presence, in Kabul and Jalalabad, the two main centres they visited, was minimal, and so far as they could judge control of the country was in Afghan hands. Mr Litherland stressed that at the airport there was a wide range of Soiet military aircraft.

Hugh Noyes writes: Mrs Thatcher in the Commons yesterday publicly condemned the visit of the three MPs. It was significant that there was no attempt by the Labour Front Bench to defend the visit. The Prime Minister said it was deplorable that MPs should give aid and comfort in this way to a regime that was kept in power by 80,000 to 90,000 Soviet troops.

Clearly angered at the use made of the visit by the Kabul Government, Mrs Thatcher reminded the Commons that the MPs concerned had been visiting an independent country occupied by Soviet troops. That occupation, she said, had been condemned by the whole of the Western world as well as by the non-aligned world.

Defending the visit, Mr Roberts, one of the three who made the journey, asked Mrs Thatcher whether her words meant that she would never *visit the Soviet Union.* There were shouts of "yes" from the Conservative benches as Mr *Roberts* asked *if the* Prime Minister was implying that the three MPs went with closed *minds.*

Parliamentary report, page 8

Opposition in Nigeria is accused of subversion

From Karan Thapar
Lagos, Jan 13

It has been alleged that the main opposition party in Nigeria has plans to subvert the constitution and, if possible, overthrow the 15-month-old civilian Government. This was *disclosed by* what is purported to be "the full text of a secret document prepared by the *Unite Party of Nigeria* (UPN) aimed at destabilizing the country politically", and published by the *Nigerian Herald* today.

Yesterday the paper published highlights of the alleged document. So far the UPN has not denied the authenticity of the document.

"Our ultimate aim must be to take Nigeria back to square one—reminiscent of the 1962-66 political and constitutional debacle that culminated in the civil war," the document states. "It is clear that the next civil war will be bloody, but if the blood of tyrants has to be shed to ensure the emergence of a just society, so be it."

No explanation is offered by the *Nigerian Herald* as to how the document, alleged to be marked "*strictly confidential—restricted circulation*", came to be in its possession. Whether the text is accurate and authentic must be in doubt, but some of the aims and procedures outlined in it do appear to coincide with what are widely believed to be the wishes of the opposition party.

Chief Awolowo, the UPN leader, was the closest loser in the 1979 Presidential election, although by a wide margin. He contested that verdict in court and lost. He has since refused to recognize Alhaji Shehu Shagari as President, and he has called on the presiding Chief Justice to resign, accusing him of bias and conspiracy.

Both the UPN-supporting papers—the *Daily Sketch* and the *Nigerian Tribune*—habitually refer to the "stolen presidency" and accuse the Government of corruption and conspiracy.

According to the document published by the newspaper, the UPN has determined "to cause confusion, foment indiscipline among other political parties thus ensuring the completion of the circle of rendering the new constitution unworkable".

In fulfilment of these aims, the document seeks to brief the foreign press, in particular the BBC Africa service, in the hope of securing maximum publicity.

However, the document is most particular about "not opposing any Bill affecting any of the services especially the Army".

The document states: "While all measures capable of arousing anger within the Armed Forces short of a coup must be drummed up, extreme care must be taken to ensure that they are not propelled to stage a coup.

"The worst civilian regime, as we have today, is better than any military administration.

Russia sends messages into space

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, Jan 13

In about three months Soviet scientists will begin transmitting radio signals to outer space in an attempt to make contact with any possible intelligent life on other galaxies.

Under the auspices of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Soviet astronomers have prepared a series of signals giving a "cosmic landscape" to show the position of the Earth in the solar system and how the system appears when seen from this or that star.

The addressees of these intergalactic messages will be the 15 stars closest to the Earth, located between 10 and 15 light years away.

Describing the experiment today in *Sovietskaya Kultura*, Dr Vsevolod Troitsky, chairman of the Academy's section dealing with the search for artificial cosmic signals, admitted that the likelihood of success was "very small". Nevertheless, he added, such experiments were necessary. By working out a sensible strategy and combining methods already tried in the search for life, Soviet scientists hoped to improve the chances of making contact.

Dr Troitsky emphasized that extra-terrestial civilizations were theoretically possible. He said that theory often preceded actual discovery, citing the example of pulsars which had only recently been found although physicists had predicted their existence many years ago.

Diver arrested trying to collect ransom

Sydney, Jan 13.—Police hunting a gang of extortionists who bombed the Woolworths store chain arrested a frogman today as he tried to collect a submerged, \$A1m (£500,000) ransom of gold, diamonds and cash.

The 28-year-old diver later appeared in court to be charged *in connexion with the bombings* and extortion demands. But police said the leader of the gang, *known as "Benny"*, was still at large.

The gang bombed three Woolworths *stores last month.*

Police said the diver was grabbed by detectives as he tried to collect the ransom which was in a cricket bag suspended in Sydney harbour from a ferry wharf.—Reuter.

Hostages legislation delayed in Tehran

Tehran, Jan 13.—Efforts to *rush two Bills on the American* embassy hostages through the Iranian Majlis (Parliament) *were stalled today for at least* 24 hours because of one man's absence.

Iranian constitutional law requires the presence in the Majlis of at least three-quarters of the 12-man Council of Guardians for urgent legislation. The council is a constitutional watch*dog body comprising six jurists* and six clergymen.

Only eight were in Tehran, so *the debate was postponed until* tomorrow, when it was hoped that enough council members would be available, a council spokesman said.

The delay, described as accidental, was a setback to the Iranian Government's apparent wish to reach a deal with the United States over the 52 captives before President Carter leaves office on January 20.

The Majlis had been *set* to approve today the two Bills related to aspects of an American-*Iranian* accord on the hostages, which diplomatic sources say is at *last* within *sight.*

Majlis sources said there was no political obstacle to approv*ing the Bills, which are to* nationalize the wealth of the late Shah and about 50 of his *relatives, and to authorize the* Government to allow third party arbitration in legal claims *between* Iran *and the United* States.

The Bills are a necessary *legal* preliminary for the Iranian Government to go ahead with an agreement to *end the hostages 14-month* captivity.

Diplomatic sources here say *the basic outlines of an accord* have been settled and should be announced before President *Carter leaves office.*

But even if a breakthrough is achieved by then, the hostages *may not be freed until after the* American Inauguration. — Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

Professor killed: Two days after being interrogated by Revolutionary Guards about *his* activities for the Bahai faith, Professor Manuchihr Hakim, a *physician and an eminent* member of the faculty at Tehran University, was shot dead in his *office yesterday, Bahai sources* in London reported

Mr Qoboza steps down as editor of closed papers

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 13

Mr Percy Qoboza has resigned as editor of the black newspapers *Post* and *Sunday Post*, *which were recently* closed by the Government because of non-publication for three months. *His resignation* was in a telegram sent from Washington to Mr Hal Miller, managing director of the *Argus* Company which owns the two black newspapers.

Mr Qoboza's telegram *said* that "recent Government actions on black press and banning of *black journalists have forced* me to tender my resignation". He apologized for not being able to discuss his resignation personally but said consultations with his lawyers had taken longer than he had expected and that he was "rushing off" to a conference in Sierra Leone. He left Johannesburg at the weekend after a period of sick leave.

Mr Qoboza came to prominence in 1978 when his former newspaper *World* was banned *in the campaign against* black consciousness organizations after the death in police detention of Mr Steve Biko, *leader of* the Black Consciousness movement. Mr Qoboza was detained *for several months but on his* release was offered the editorship of the Transvaal edition of the *Post* and *Sunday Post*, newspapers which had their main circulations in Natal.

Over the past two years Mr Qoboza has been under pressure from the Government for alleged *provocative* articles and from black militants who thought he was not forthright enough in pleading the case for early majority rule. A few months ago he took a sabbatical to seek respite from the strains of the job and acted as a guest writer for American newspapers.

Two of his *staff,* including Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, one of his chief assistants, recently came under a Government banning order. Mr Sisulu is the leader of the Media Workers Association of South Africa which believes that black journalists should promote black power rather than the ethic of objectivity, and which had called a strike of workers on black newspapers and blacks employed on white-owned news*papers.*

Dissident Soviet miner held in mental hospital

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 13

A Soviet miner, who has spent several years in prisons and punitive psychiatric wards after protesting about working conditions in the Donetsk mining area of the Ukraine, has been rearrested and forcibly confined to a mental hospital after talking to Western correspondens, according to information reaching Moscow today.

Mr Alexei Nikitin, a former miner and *Communist* Party member at the Butovka *mine,* was picked up from his sister's home last month by men who arrived in an ambulance three days after he had met the *Moscow correspondents of the Financial Times* and the *Washington Post.*

An account of his arrest said the men told him he had to undergo another psychiatric *examination. He protested, but* was given a substance—probably an injection—that reduced *his resistance and he was* bundled into the ambulance. He was taken under police *guard to a psychiatric hospital* in Donetsk where his relatives later found him in a very bad *condition with a high temperature* and refusing to eat.

The account said that after *December 26* he was sent to the city prison, and his sister was told he would be given a *psychiatric* examination *in* Kharkov.

Mr Nikitin, whose trouble with the authorities began in 1969 after leading a delegation of miners to protest about compulsory overtime working and the management's failure to pay the obligatory bonuses, has already spent several years in psychiatric wards where he has been forcibly treated with behaviour-altering drugs.

Last year he was released *and was pronounced* completely sane after an independent examination by a psychiatrist.

Mr Nikitin told correspondents who visited him in Donetsk in December that he had been unable to find work, his wife was induced to leave *him* and he had suffered harassment ever since predicting, accurately, an explosion at the mine where he worked because of poor safety standards.

Dissident jailed: Mr Alexander Podrabinek, leading member of a Seviet dissident commission *investigating* the political use of psychiatry, was sentenced on January 7 to three and a half years in a forced labour *camp* for "defamation of the Soviet system," it has been learned in London. He is author of the book *Punitive Medicine.*

Another human rights campaigner, Mr Alexander Lavut, a 51-year-old mathematician, received a three-year sentence *on December 26* on the same charge.

Scathing attack on EEC move in Middle East

Continued from page 1

idea of a separate European initiative. "One ought to separate courtesy from substantive attitudes", he replied.

He claimed that it was disconcerting for Israel to be with two separate Western peace *initiatives,* "each with its own vocabulary, its own rhetoric and its own priorities". *He added scathingly that* Europe's stated desire to associate the PLO with the peace *process had been announced* only two weeks after the organization declared its desire to *liquidate the Zionist entity.*

"We believe that Europe is underestimating its potential role", *Mr Eban said.* "If it wants to create a Palestinian outlook similar to the change which took *place* in *Egyptian* policy, the way to go about it is not to pretend that the change has occurred when it has not."

Earlier, Mr Eban had spoken of the different approach to the Middle East problem which would be adopted if Labour formed the next Israeli government. His remarks indicated that *the future* of the occupied West Bank is destined to become a key campaign issue.

The main innovation would come from the fact that Labour opposed the idea of permanent Israeli rule over the 1.2 million Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza, he explained. "We oppose it not only in the name of peace, but also on what Labour Party resolutions describe as 'moral and Jewish grounds'."

Mr Eban said that if Labour were returned *to office* it would attempt to open a dialogue with both the Jordanian *Government and local* Palestinians in an effort to begin negotiations about territorial compromise *on* Arab land

Mr Eban stated that Labour would refuse to consider redividing *Jerusalem,* or returning to Israel's pre-1967 boundaries. The party would not make any pledge to dismantle Jewish settlements.

Israelis detain six over Arab's murder

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, Jan 13

Israeli *police* investigating last night's murder of Shaikh Muhammad Abu Rabia, a Bedu member *of the Knesset,* visited Yerka, a Druze village in Galilee. The son and a kinsman of a prominent non-Jewish notable were detained.

Two others were reported arrested at a roadblock. They were unarmed but one man was said to have been dressed in an army uniform with an officer's insignia. The Israel radio said two other suspects were detained, one of them a Jew.

Ottawa amends proposals to reform constitution

From John Best
Ottawa, Jan 13

The Federal Government has introduced wide-ranging amendments to its constitutional reform package. These are designed to overcome the ferocious criticism that the package has encountered and pave the way for final approval, here and at Westminster.

The amendments were presented last night to a joint Commons-Senate committee which has since November been studying the reform proposals —aimed at "patriation" of the 1867 British North America Act, Canada's Constitution.

The committee is to make its report by February 9. After the Government's proposals are cleared through both Canadian Houses, they will form the basis of an address to the British Parliament asking that Westminster amend the 1867 Act and then surrender control over it.

It is hoped the changes, which were proposed last night by Mr Jean Chrétien, the Justice Minister, will close the much criticized loopholes in the Charter of Rights, which the Government wants Westminster to incorporate in the new constitution.

One example is the original opening clause in the charter, which made fundamental rights in Canada subject to limitations "generally accepted" in a free *society.* Civil liberties organizations attacked *this* as being so broad as to render the proposed safeguards virtually meaningless.

The clause has now been revised to make freedoms "subject *only* to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society."

Another amendment would add New Brunswick to the list of provinces where court and legislative proceedings are to be conducted in both Canada's official languages—English and French.

The present list includes Quebec and Manitoba. Still conspicuously missing is Ontario, whose Premier strenuously opposes having his province covered by the bilingual provisions.

Unilateral threat: The "constitutional monarchy" in Canada would be severely threatened if Westminster refused to pass or make changes to the revised constitution, Mr Richard Hatfield, the Premier of New Brunswick, said in London yesterday (our political correspondent writes).

"If there is reluctance on the part of the British Parliament to carry out the commitment that it gave to us as recently as June, 1976, then we will be forced to take unilateral action and it will be a good period of time before we can return and restore good relations between the people of Canada and the people of Great Britain."

Mr Hatfield said he did not question the right of Westminster MPs to comment on the constitutional proposals, but he expected the legislation to be passed.

He said he expected that the constitutional package would be approved by the Federal *Parliament* by the end of February and that it would be in London *before the end of March.*

Africans query legality of Chad merger

Lomé, Jan 13.—African leaders discussed a proposed merger of Libya and Chad today and informed sources said the presidents believed a merger would have no legal backing.

Eleven heads of state and two foreign ministers taking part in the informal talks decided to hold a formal session tomorrow to discuss the possibility of calling a meeting of the Organization of African Unity.

Several African nations have condemned the proposed merger to which President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad agreed during a visit to Tripoli last week.

The sources said the heads of state were likely to call in Lomé for another conference of African nations, including Chad and Libya, similar to that in Lagos in 1979 which set up the present Chad transition government.

African leaders were generally agreed that President Goukouni was given a strictly temporary mandate to organize elections and demilitarize the capital of Ndjamena by this month, the sources said.—Reuter.

Leading article, page 13

Russian quits embassy in Cairo and seeks asylum

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, Jan 13

A Soviet official working in the commercial section of the embassy here has defected to Egypt. The defection, which was made public today, came after the announcement at the weekend that another commercial attaché had been charged with *spying and ordered* to be deported.

It was not clear whether the cases were *related,* but Mr Kamal Hassan Aly, the egyptian Foreign Minister, said the case of the attaché charged with spying would not strain relations further with Moscow, but should drive home to the Kremlin "that diplomats must adhere to diplomatic practice and work to promote bilateral relations."

But Moscow, almost surely, will not see the defection in the same light. The semi-official newspaper, *al-Ahram*, in a front page article today, said a Soviet *Embassy official, identified as* Mr Vladislav Kharlov, aged 59, had resorted to the newspaper to help him inform Egyptian authorities of his decision to seek political asylum in Egypt.

The report said the authorities had granted his request after he explained that his "life in the Soviet Union is against all human nature and against *logic even". The decision* had been hard for him to take, he said, especially as he had two sons *in Moscow. Although he* was not wanted for any crimes, he was sure the Soviet Government would frame accusations against him to explain his defection.

Mr Kharlov joined the embassy here in May, 1979, after being transferred from Moscow's Ministry for Foreign Commerce.

Guerrillas claim war success in El Salvador

San Salvador, Jan 13—Leftist guerrillas today claimed new military successes *in El Salvador* as the opposition groups *called a general strike* aimed at bringing the junta to its knees.

Guerrillas said they had wrested control of the north*west towns of Chalatenango* and Suchitoto, surrounded San Miguel in the east and laid siege *to the barracks at* El Paraiso.

Government leaders, however, insisted they had the military situation well in hand.

Mr Ian Mates, one of two press photographers seriously wounded in a grenade explosion, died *today* from his injuries, the authorities announced. — Agence France-Presse.

The civil war, page 12

Chinese leftists suspected of terror bombings

From David Bonavia
Hongkong, Jan 13

Reports of terrorist bomb attacks in different parts of China may be linked to the *delay in passing sentence on* Jiang Qing, the widow of Mao Tse-tung and nine other de*fendants found guilty* of offences amounting to treason by a special court in Peking.

The bombings have been reported by the official press in Shanghai and the north-eastern province of Liaoning—both formerly regarded as strong*holds of the left-wing faction* surrounding Jiang Qing and her associates in the erstwhile "*Gang of Four*".

At the trial, Jiang Qing made a spirited defence of her previous political activity, and there is understood to be controversy in leadership circles whether she should be sentenced to immediate execution, to execution suspended for two years to see whether she will "reform" herself, or to a long prison term.

Although Jiang Qing is very unpopular among the Chinese public, there are undoubtedly disgruntled leftists who in extreme cases could be expected to use acts of terrorism to demonstrate support for her.

More serious is the question whether members of the armed forces may have taken part in the bombings—about which few details have been published—or supplied explosives, otherwise very difficult to obtain.

Last year, 11 people died in *a bomb explosion at Peking's* main railway station. The police blamed a man who was unhappy in his work and had quarrelled with his girl friend. There was no evidence of a political motive.

There are, however, solid grounds to believe that many armed forces commanders are unhappy about the recent *political trial, in which* five former senior officers from chief of staff down were convicted of attempting to assassinate Mao in 1971. This has damaged the political prestige of the armed forces, as has the campaign since Mao's death to discredit many of his policies, for which he often took the military as a political model.

Several *publications of the* Communist Party have discussed the problems involved in making the troops understand the reasoning behind the new, anti-leftist policies laid down in Peking—especially those related to agriculture. Many members of the armed forces have apparently objected to schemes to give the peasants greater material incentives, on the ground that these policies diverge too far from Mao's ideas.

The armed forces newspaper *said last month: "Certain of* our comrades fail to take a serious attitude towards party documents and ponder problems seriously, but are instead very interested in untruthful hearsay and street gossip, passing irresponsible judgment on things and people. They listen to and believe anything anyone says and even add their own contri*butions, thus spreading* falsehood and creating confusion for themselves and others."

Another problem is the provision of jobs and homes for demobilized servicemen, and compensation for families in the rural areas for the labour taken away when a young man or woman is recruited. In recent months, there have been *reports of considerable* difficulties in persuading young people to join up, in contrast with the previous *state of affairs,* in which a *military* career was regarded as highly desirable.

Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping, whose return to power four years ago after he had been disgraced by Jiang Qing and her friends was supported by the leading armed forces commanders, seems to have disappointed them. He has not earmarked large funds for the import of advanced arms and *equipment, as had been widely* forecast, and he has purged several top commanders for political reasons.

Mr Deng is also thought to have had *sharp disagreements* with the veteran Marshal Ye Jianying, especially over the *posthumous discrediting of Mao* and many of his policies—a cumulative process to which the party has now called a halt.

While no concrete evidence links the *recent terror bombings* with the friction between Mr Deng and the armed forces commanders, they will increase unease in the public mind about the security of his new team of civilian administrators and their ability to stand up to and suppress any manifestations of violent opposition.

It is thought that a death sentence on Jiang Qing could well provoke more violent protests, especially as much of her group's support rested in the militia or territorial army.

OVERSEAS

Press is a real source of information after years of sterile polemics and abstruse political theory

Exciting intellectual era for China

"The Chinese" by David Bonavia, China Correspondent of The Times is published this week. This is the last of three edited extracts from the book and it looks at the way in which Chinese writers and journalists are starting to emerge from the crisis of the Cultural Revolution. More people understand written Chinese than any other language and it is also the most ancient system of writing still in use today. But there have been extensive changes in Chinese script recently which have made it difficult for older Chinese and those living outside the country to understand. Communication by the written word has also been constricted by political upheaval in China.

Most of the promising writers of the early revolutionary period have seen their works denounced, banned or burnt at one time or another. Well-known authors are only now taking up the pen again, after enforced or voluntary silences of 20 years and more. Libraries in China have been subject to severe restrictions, bookshops denuded of all but the most banal books.

The press has emerged from a period of more than a decade during which it became so devious, obscene and repetitive that only skilled reading between the lines could make any sense of it at all.

Playwrights and actors have been forced either to stick to a tiny range of approved themes, or give up their careers—sometimes their liberty or their lives. Poetry was reduced to mere declamation in the Eleven Years (the years 1966-77 which began with the Cultural Revolution and ended with the arrest of the "Gang of Four"), and literary criticism became an exercise in political survival.

Now a generation of young writers is bursting with things to say—even if they too often lack the skill to say them well. Once-famous authors and stage performers have been plucked out of their obscurity in remote country villages where they were exiled, or released from jails and labour camps.

The press, though still stodgy and skimpy, is showing encouraging signs of an attempt at honest and interesting reporting. Dozens of journals and periodicals, both literary and scientific, are sprouting on the bookstands again.

Classic European authors can once more be bought in the shops, and China's own cultural legacy is being studied with the respect which it deserves—and not just to find ways of scoring cheap political points.

To understand how exciting the new intellectual atmosphere is for people in China, one must compare the situation of the daily press there in 1980 with its situation in 1975.

A casual glance would reveal little difference in the soberly-arranged columns of the *People's Daily*—the main party organ. It consists of two big sheets of newsprint, each folded once to make a total of eight pages.

The big change today lies in the content of the *People's Daily*, and all the other national and local newspapers which more or less follow its style. Where previously there were acres of sterile polemics and abstruse political theory, there are now facts and statistics, serious discussions of social problems, humour and satire and sports news.

To people in China, the press is now a real source of information and food for thought, rather than a quasi-astrological guide to the political currents swirling through the halls of power, as it was in the decade before Mao's death.

Mao himself at different times in his career stood out for frank and honest reporting in the press, but, with that peculiar ambivalence which marked most things he said, he also warned about its dangers, supposedly having proclaimed in the 1960s: "If a newspaper reports only about failings, when every commune has its own point of view, the paper won't be able to print them all."

Mao's supporters took this to mean that critical reporting should be suppressed, except when the leadership itself felt like criticizing someone or some institution. It became near-treasonable to dwell in print on "the dark side of society"—that is social abuses or oppressive practices, poverty or disorganization.

A journalist was supposed to be "positive", reporting only things which reflected well on the leadership's management of affairs. Even an article criticizing something as trivial as rude service in a shop had to be balanced by another article, pointing out how conscientious the sales clerks were in some *other* shop.

The new approach—unthinkable as recently as 1978—has awakened a lively response from the readers. According to officials at the *People's Daily*, letters from readers rose from about 1,200 a month to 2,000 a day—a 50-fold increase—in the late 1970s.

One explanation for this is the tremendous social ferment in China which has greeted the post-Mao leadership's announcement of new, more liberal policies.

Another has been the growing confidence, on the part of the general public, that one may write to a national newspaper without fear of being arrested and jailed without trial if one voices the wrong sentiments.

Previously, letters which seemed seriously "deviant" in political terms were referred to the local police in the sender's place of residence, for investigation.

Today, an intelligent person reading nothing but the *People's Daily* for six months would have at least a smattering of knowledge about events in the world outside China, a fairly realistic picture of the main economic and political trends inside China and virtually no knowledge at all about big international controversies over culture, religion, education, the arts, environmental protection or sex.

But reasonably well-educated Chinese people are not wholly dependent on their own press to get knowledge about the outside world. Nowadays they can listen to international broadcasting stations such as the BBC, or the Voice of America, in both English and Chinese. Previously this was a serious crime.

"The Chinese" is published tomorrow by Allen Lane, price £7.95.

Mr Haig loses his temper at confirmation hearing

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 13

Mr Alexander Haig, the choce of Mr Reagan as his Secretary of State, today lost his temper with Democratic members of the Senate foreign relations committee who are inquiring into his suitability for the post.

On the fourth day of his confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill, he initially resisted attempts by Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, in particular, to persuade him to give a moral judgment on the Watergate affair. Mr Haig was President Nixon's White House chief of staff during the final days of thats candal.

But after telling Mr Sarbanes angrily that nobody had "a monopoly on virtue, not even you, Senator". He later took the unusual step of spelling out in great detail his distaste for the "abuses of power" which occurred during the Watergate scandal.

Incidents like the original burglary at the Watergate Hotel complex and the subsequent cover-up of the break-in by senior members of Mr Nixon's Administration were "improper, illegal and immoral," he said. In addition they were an "affront to the fundamental values I cherish and we all share."

Nevertheless, Mr Haig told the confirmation hearing it was not up to him to sit in moral judgment on President Nixon or Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State. That must be left to others and to history, he said.

The Secretary of State-designate was, however, less willing to criticize some of his other past actions which have been condemned by some of his opponents. He cited, in particular, the decision to bomb North Vietnamese targets inside Cambodia and the 1972 move to bomb North Vietnam.

In conclusion he said that the United States had a "special responsibility" to conduct itself with "honour and generosity" and he promised to fulfil these obligations

Bumper harvest in Bangladesh brings grain glut

From Our Own Correspondent
Delhi, Jan 13

Nearly all shipments of food to Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries and one of the largest recipients of food aid, have been halted while the country has a temporary large food surplus.

Shiploads of grain have been diverted or deferred because warehouses and silos are already filled

Bangladesh is exporting wheat to the United Arab Emirates in part settlement of oil debts and is repaying a loan of 200,000 tons of rice from India in rice. There was a surplus in 1976, but this is the first time that the country has been able to export grain.

Technological advances in agriculture and a good monsoon have given Bangladesh a rice and wheat glut, but the country is still a long way from its targer of self-sufficiency.

The aim during the next five years is to double food production to 26 million tons.

Viceroys' Simla lodge destroyed

Delhi, Jan 13.—The century-old former summer retreat of British Viceroys of India was destroyed by fire last night, the Press Trust of India reported today.

The Viceregal Lodge, built on a *Simla hillside* and known as "Peter Hoff", with its teak-panelled rooms and valuable paintings, became the official residence of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh after independence in 1947.—Reuter.

Marcos immunity decree

Manila, Jan 13.—President Ferdinand Marcos has decreed immunity for himself, his Cabiner "and all other public officers for acts performed in office" under emergency powers which he can exercise even after martial law is lifted.

Earlier, official announcements said an emergency national security decree, known as the public Safety Act, gives Mr Marcos the power to make preventive arrests, close the mass media, control admissions to schools, and other measures "whenever in his judgment there exists a grave emergency and threat".

The decree is dated September 12, 1980, but was released in complete form to members of the National Assembly only today.

The Public Safety Act, together with another document called the National Security Act, spells out Mr Marcos's emergency powers after the lifting of martial law, expected before the end of the month.—Agence France-Presse.

Malay defector a propaganda coup

From David Watts
Singapore, Jan 13

Either it is the beginning of the end of Chinese-supported communist insurgency in Malaysia and the rest of South-East Asia, an insubstantial public relations gesture or just a homesick old man coming home at last.

Whichever way it turns out, the arrival in Malaysia from Peking of Mr Musa Ahmad, chairman of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM), and his wife, Zainab Binti Mahmoud, is an intriguing coup exercising the minds of government leaders and laymen throughout the region.

The Malaysian Government, not surprisingly, is using the return of Mr Musa as an illustration of how demoralized the CPM has become and in a carefully orchestrated campaign is trying to persuade other cadres to turn themselves in from the jungle regions on the border between Thailand and Malaysia which are their strongholds.

At the same time the Government is using the defection as a reminder that the CPM is still in business, Mr Musa's television "confession" was designed to convince Malaysians that there is no real prospecr that China will cut off support for the CPM.

The arrival of Mr Musa serves the Malaysians admirably; but also the Chinese since it gives the impression, at least, that Peking is honouring hints that it will consider cutting off support for insurgent movements in the region.

In years past the Chinese have maintained the spurious position that communist insurgency in Malaysia and Thailand was not a matter for the Chinese Government but a question of party to party relations.

But it has been made clear to the Chinese of late, particularly during the visit of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Singapore Prime Minister, late last year, that Peking could not continue to expect to have good relations with governments while continuing to support insurgents dedicated to overthrowing them.

The Singapore delegation said they detected a subtle change in the Chinese position over the insurgents while the Chinese observed it was not possible to reverse historic commitments in a short space of time.

It seems most unlikely that Mr Musa's arrival in Kuala Lumpur is directly linked to the Lee talks since he would have left the Chinese capital about the time of the visit. Mr Musa has been undergoing debriefing since his arrival in November.

At first Mr Musa and the Malaysian Government insisted that the manner of his leaving Peking was a secret—he gave a coy smirk when questioned about it on television. But now government officials in Malaysia claim that he was smuggled out of the Chinese capital in a "thorough and detailed" plan two years after he had first contacted the Malaysian Government.

The ability of the Malaysian Government to smuggle a Malay out of Peking after he had lived there for 24 years is, to put it mildly, questionable. It seems much more likely that he left with at least the consent of the Chinese, if not their active assistance.

That alone would seem to devalue the defection, but what further detracts from its glamour are the facts that Mr Musa was little more than a figurehead in the movement. He had played little part in the CPM for about 10 years and had been asking the Chinese to allow him to leave since 1972.

Silver-haired and chubby now, Mr Musa was by all accounts a fiery speaker and a brilliant student when he was forced to return to his native village at the age of 18 to avoid the press-gangs of the Imperial Japanese Army.

Certainly it is too early to say whether or not Mr Musa's defection represents the beginning of a radical new departure in the history of relations between China and South-East Asia. Other governments in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) are prepared to wait and see whether Mr Musa's return precipitates a decline in the insurgents' fortunes.

But it is clear that the return home of an old man and his wife has been a propaganda coup that has benefited both Peking and Kuala Lumpur.

SPORT

Football



The goals snowballed at Ipswich last night. Wark is on the right, starting the slide.

There is blue snow on the summit

By Nicholas Harling

Ipswich 5 Birmingham 1

With a clinical exhibition of finishing, Ipswich Town returned to the top of the first division last night, doing their goal difference no harm in relieving Aston Villa of the leadership by a point. Liverpool, who like Villa have played a game more than Ipswich, are now four points adrift.

Bobby Robson, the Ipswich manager, can have wished for no better performance with which to celebrate the twelfth anniversary of his tenancy. He had helped the ground staff clear the pitch of several inches of snow. It was still on a white surface, flanked by markings of red paint, that Ipswich served notice of their intention to capture the honour that has eluded them since the heady days of Sir Alf Ramsey 18 years ago. Five different players scored their goals.

Illuminated by the floodlights, is was a glorious wintry setting and Ipswich's display was no less delightful. The only pity was that O'Callaghan, who had turned Hawker inside out in the second half, failed to get a goal, although he so excelled that Gates completing his suspension, was never missed.

Not until they had established control with their fourth goal after the interval did Ipswich produce their most ebullient football.

The pitch being hardly conducive to intricate skills and accurate one-touch passes, Ipswich elected to keep things simple at the start, working the ball carefully upfield, risking little and rarely taking opponents on. No one adapted better to the new demands than Muhren.

The Dutchman initiated the moves that led to Ipswich going ahead in the tenth minute. He was helped by Curbishley, who should have done better than head his cross straight to the feet of Wark, who promptly dispatched his twenty-fourth goal of the season high and wide of Wealands.

Ipswich doubled their lead when O'Callaghan accepted Brazil's short corner to cross for Butcher, who was unmarked, to score with a stooping header after 22 minutes. The mistake-making habit was catching. Within 60 more seconds Worthington had got one back for Birmingham with a shot that Cooper allwed to spin through his doubtless frozen finger.

Mariner, also sensibly clad in gloves, restored Ipswich's two-goal advantage in the forty-first minute, shooting irresistibly home after dispossessing Todd. Muhren collected the fourth goal on the hour after Burley had sent Brazil down the right wing to race past Hawker.

Birmingham, frustrated as well as bemused, had Ainscow cautioned for a foul on Mariner before Brazil went through the middle to score Ipswich's fifth goal after being put through by Wark.

IPSWICH TOWN: P. Cooper; G. Burley, M. Mills, F. Thijssen, R. Osman, T. Butcher, J. Wark, A. Muhren, P. Mariner, A. Brazil, K. O'Callaghan.
BIRMINGHAM CITY: J. Wealands; D. Langan, P. Hawker, A. Curbishley, J. Gallagher, C. Todd, A. Ainscow, K. Bertschin, F. Worthington, A. Gemmill, A. Evans (sub, S. Lynex).
Referee: C. Downey (Hounslow).

Liverpool take Maine Road revival test

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Manchester City tonight find themselves in the semi-final round of the Football League Cup with a home first leg against Liverpool (7.45). Less than three months ago they were bottom of the first division and had just appointed John Bond as manager in succession to Malcolm Allison. Mr Bond's feats are almost enough to swing a debate on the generally unfortunate principle of changing managers to obtain success.

Since his arrival with the former Norwich City youth team coach, John Benson, Mr Bond's new team have won nine first division matches, losing only three, have beaten Notts County and West Bromwich Albion to reach this stage of the League Cup and scored four goals against Crystal Palace in the third round of the FA Cup. They have also scored three goals or more on seven occasions.

By introducing some experienced players to assist the younger ones who had always shown good individual talent, Mr Bond has taken a more pragmatic line than his predecessor at Maine Road, but tonight's match is a substantial test, not merely because Liverpool are the opponents. Three of his purchases, Hutchinson, Gow and McDonald are ineligible, as they were last month, when Albion were beaten 2—1 with Bennett obtaining the second goal to maintain his record of scoring in every round.

Liverpool could be at their most dangerous, having on Saturday lost leadership of the first division to Aston Villa. They are also trying to win the only domestic trophy to have eluded them. Financially, it is no longer posisble for them to look upon the competition as an inferior event not worthy of their full concentration.

Their defeat at Villa Park was partly the result of having a rearranged defence but was essentially caused by the determination of their opponents to keep them under pressure. Manchester City's need to follow similar tactics is especially important in view of Liverpool's experience at winning two-legged games when the second is at Anfield.

There was encouragement for Liverpool yesterday when Thompson, the central defender who broke a collarbone two months ago, and Fairclough, out since October with cartilage trouble, were fit enough to be considered for selection. Bob Paisley, the manager, said he would not make a decision until after training today.

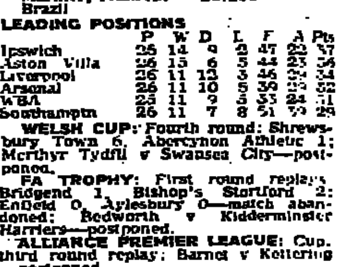
As Johnson's recent form has not been impressive, Mr Paisley may decide to include Fairclough as substitute, and there is little doubt that Thompson will appear, probably replacing Money, provided training is successfully completed.

The City team will be further depleted by the absence of Booth, who has a thigh injury, so Henry, Tueart and Bennett are expected to be recalled. A teenager, Buckley, is also in the party but not Daley, who remains out of favour

Despite the changes he will have to make, Mr Bond said: "There is no way we can be classed as underdogs; not even against Liverpool. Our recent results stand by anybody. We've a clear chance in this tie and our players have as much confidence as any team in the League." Liverpool's last visit to Maine Road brought a 3—0 victory, but that was before the new broom

Liverpool's FA Cup match against Everton at Goodison Park on Saturday week will be shown on closed circuit television at three sites in the city and one in Southport. Although the Football Association refused to allow an evening kick-off which would have allowed the match to have been shown on screens at Anfield, Viewsport have been given permission to show the game at the Liverpool Stadium, two cinemas in Liverpool and another in Southport.

Yesterday's results



First division
Ipswich (3) 5 Birmingham (1) 1
Wark, Butcher, Mariner, Muhren, Brazil — Worthington — 21,136

LEADING POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich	25	14	9	2	47	22	37
Aston Villa	26	15	6	5	44	23	36
Liverpool	26	11	12	3	46	[illegible]	34
Arsenal	26	11	10	5	39	[illegible]	32
WBA	25	11	9	5	33	24	31
Southampton	26	11	7	8	51	[illegible]	29

WELSH CUP: Fourth round: Shrewsbury Town 6, Abercynon Athletic 1; Merthyr Tydfil v Swansea City—postponed.
FA TROPHY: First round replays: Bridgend 1, Bishop's Stortford 2; Enfield 0, Aylesbury 0—match abandoned; Bedworth v Kidderminster Harriers—postponed.
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Cup, third round replay: Barnet v Kettering—postponed.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Trowbridge 2, Banbury 0.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Wembley v Kingstonian—postponed.
ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Harefield v Chertsey—postponed.
RUGBY UNION: Hospitals Cup, first round: Royal Free 10, Charing Cross 6; UCH 8, St George's 6.

For football new life begins at 50 with some nasty old habits

The global game scores half a century

The fiftieth anniversary celebration tournament of the World Cup for past winners—excluding England, who refused the invitation for domestic reasons—held last week in Uruguay, the original hosts of 1930, once more underlined the fact that European sides seem unable to survive in South America.

The way West Germany, unbeaten in the Old World for the past two years, Italy and Netherlands—substitutes for England as defeated finalists of 1974 and 1978—were brushed aside by the big three of the New World was significant, but reasonably predictable.

Of some point, too, was the rebirth of Brazil, who lost the final 2—1 to Uruguay for the special prize of a Gold Cup. Knocked off their perch as champions in the past two global competitions, Brazil appear to have harvested a new young crop of artists who may become worthy to succeed the likes of Pele, Gerson, Tostao, Jairzinho and Rivelino of a decade ago. Experience may be all they lack.

Unchanged, however, were some of the degrading scenes of violence on the field between hot-blooded South American elements which do not augur well for Latin passion in Spain next year. Predictable also were the usual accusations of weak refereeing on this occasion, all of which raised echoes of the initial World Cup of 1930, when Uruguay beat Argentina 4—2 at the climax before a 100,000 crowd in their new Centenario Stadium in Montevideo.

As soon as that final was over, the recriminations began. Argentina complained of Uruguayan brutality, and the referee was accused of being too one-sided. Giving vent to their feelings, an Argentine crowd stoned the Uruguayan consulate in Buenos Aires until police intervened, firing their rifles to disperse the mobs.

Public demonstrations and virulent press comments also had their effect, with the result that the Argentine and Uruguayan federations broke off relations. So ended the first World Cup, when only 13 nations competed. Now, well over 100 take part in the qualifying competition held at the four corners of the earth. Next year, when the twelfth championship is held in Spain, there will be 24 instead of 16 contestants for the final stages.

Looking across the last 50 years, it is clear that the World Cup has become a four-yearly trade fair, a shop window on the global game. Each one brings a general post-mortem; a search for fresh ideas and trends. Frequently, a new fashion is set and, if successful, quickly imitated.

In 1954, for instance, the memorable Hungarians—although beaten in the final through over-confidence—set a pattern with their deep-lying centre forward. The Brazilian success of 1958 in Sweden gave football a 4-2-4 alignment. By 1962 they had made that concept more fluid with victory in Chile. When England took the crown at home in 1966, the shape had changed to 4-3-3, which brought the demise of orthodox wingers and the emergence of full backs overlapping down the flanks. More and more, the trend had begun to veer towards the defensive.

Yet Brazil's third triumph of 1970 in Mexico revived one of the oldest tenets in the game: that attack is the best defence. However, with the retirement of the great Pele, along with Gerson, Tostao and company, they, too, fell back on their heels, which is basically foreign to their nature.

But natural footballers grow like bananas in their land, and they may again be finding their true selves. Imagination with flair is their instinctive style. It is a copyright worthy of their mighty football temple of Maracaña Stadium nestling under the shadow of Corcovado mountain.

In that first World Cup half a century ago only France, Belgium, Yugoslavia and Romania from Europe elected to attempt the trek into the unknown of South America. In Romania it needed the intervention of the monarch for his country to compete. King Carol, with a special passion for football, selected the Romanian side himself. Many of the chosen players were employees of a British oil company, and at first were refused leave for the long boat journey and an absence of two or three months. However, a telephone call from the king ironed out the difficulties.

On Sunday, July 13, 1930, the World Cup was born. But in England the historic moment went unnoticed. There was something quite different to occupy British sporting minds. The third Test match against Australia was in progress at Headingley, and that weekend was dominated by the news of the remarkable "Boy" Bradman who had compiled an innings of 334 runs in a day, a world record for a Test at the time.

Football, some 8,000 miles away in high summer, with the sound of bat on ball and the scent of new-mown grass in the air, somehow seemed to belong to a different world.

Geoffrey Green

Bowyer goes to Roker Park for £250,000

Ian Bowyer, Nottingham Forest's midfield player, signed for Sunderland for £250,000 yesterday. Bowyer, 29, will make his first appearance at Roker Park on Saturday against Manchester United. He has won a first division, two European Cup, three league championships and a European Cup Winners medal, and his experience will prove invaluable in Sunderland's fight against relegation.

"It is a wrench to leave Forest but I believe that I am making the right move," said Bowyer.

Ian Callaghan, the former Liverpool midfield player, has left Swansea City by mutual consent with the manager John Toshack, after two-and-a-half seasons with club. Callaghan, aged 38, arrived at Swansea with Tommy Smith to help Mr Toshak, their old Liverpool colleague take the Welsh club into the second division. Smith left the club last year after recurring injuries.

Callaghan, who still lives in Liverpool, may next play in the Norwegian league. "I have had an offer to play in Norway but I'm still thinking it over" he said.

Dutch coach resigns: Jan Swartkruis, the Netherlands coach, has resigned after criticism of his team's performances in World Cup qualifying matches and the Gold Cup tournament in Uruguay. Mr Zwartkruis, who had a contract until July 1982, will *step* down on Thursday.

Skiing

Stenmark loses on course that halves slalom field

Oberstaufen, Jan 13.—Paul Frommelt, of Liechtenstein, beat the Swedish double Olympic champion, Ingemar Stenmark, by a whisker in a men's World Cup slalom race today. The margin was two-hundredths of a second, in stark contrast to a women's race in Schruns, Austria, where Erika Hess, of Switzerland, was the winner by 1.73 seconds.

The men's contest took place on a course which knocked out 43 of the 89 starters in the first of the two runs. "The track is all broken up and full of holes. You simply can't ski your best on it", Stenmark said after finishing fourth, well behind Frommelt, on the first run. The race jury rejected a protest by all national team chiefs over the way the run was staked out.

The Swede, pursuing his fifty-sixth World Cup race victory, stormed back in the second run and came within an ace of catching Frommelt. But he was full of praise for the winner afterwards.

Frommelt, third in the slalom world championship in 1978, has been superbly consistent, finishing in the first three in his last three outings. He leads the slalom section with 60 points, ahead of Stenmark, who has 45.

Stenmark, always extra formidable the second time, had the overall lead when Frommelt began his second run, but Frommelt kept his nerve on a day when only 35 of the starters completed both runs and held on to win.

RESULTS: 1, P. Frommelt (Liechtenstein), 1min 44.41sec; 2, I. Stenmark (Sweden), 1:44.43; 3, S. Mahre (US), 1:44.78; 4, P. Mahre (US), 1:45.66; 5, C. Orlainsky (Austria), 1:45.71; 6, A. Shirov (USSR), 1:46.45.
WORLD CUP STANDINGS: 1, P. Mueller (Switzerland), 120 pts; 2, P. Mahre, 105; 3, I. Stenmark, 95; 4, S. Podborski (Canada), 86; 5, A. Wenzel (Liechtenstein), 82; 6, H. Weirather (Austria), 70.—Reuter.

The first Swiss slalom win for three years

Schruns, Austria, Jan 13.—Erika Hess, aged 18, of Switzerland, dipped and darted down a mist-shrouded slalom course to her first world cup victory today. Miss Hess, fourth after the first run, set an unbeatable pace through the 53 gates of the second descent amid swirling fog which often hid the track from view.

Her time of 47.43 sec, coupled with 42.85 sec for the first leg, gave her an aggregate of 1 min 30.28 sec and a substantial winning margin of 1.73 sec. The victory followed another by her team colleague, Doris de Agostini, in a downhill yesterday and was Switzerland's first world cup women's slalom success for three years.

Claudia Giordani, of Italy, fastest in the 51-gate first run in 42.69 sec, finished second in 1:32.01. The American, Tamara McKinney, was third, three-hundredths of a second further back.

Marie-Thérèse Nadig, of Switzerland, failed to finish today after being disqualified in yesterday's downhill, but she retains the world cup lead with 138 points.

RESULTS: 1, E. Hess (Switzerland), 1min 30.28sec; 2, C. Giordani (Italy), 1:32.01; 3, T. McKinney (US), 1:32.04; 4, H. Wenzel (Liechtenstein), 1:32.24; 5, D. Zini (Italy), 1:32.42; 6, C. Cooper (US), 1:32.62.
OVERALL: 1, M-T. Nadig (Switzerland), 138 pts; 2, P. Pelen (France), 114; 3, E. Hess, 105; 4, F. Serrat (France), 104; 5, I. Epple (WG), 96; 6, D. de Agostini (Switzerland), 80.

Latest snow reports from Europe

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions: Off piste	Conditions: Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andermatt	120	270	Good	Varied	Good	Cloudy	-6
Good skiing, bad visibility							
Arosa	105	140	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-7
Powder on hard base							
Grindelwald	80	250	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-1
Good powder everywhere							
Isola 2000	35	75	Good	Varied	Good	Snow	-1
Good skiing on piste							
La Plagne	130	230	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-3
New snow on good base							
St Anton	100	400	Good	Crust	Good	Snow	-5
Excellent skiing on piste							
Seefeld	100	180	Good	Fair	Good	Snow	-3
New snow on good base							
Tignes	80	185	Good	—	—	Snow	-4
New snow settled, no wind							
Zermatt	90	90	Fair	Varied	Fair	Snow	-4
Light snow on hard base							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources.

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
AUSTRIA					
Alpbach	80	170	—	—	-7
Axamer-Lizum	—	150	—	—	-7
Badgastein	75	310	—	—	-10
Berwang	[illegible]	165	—	—	-10
Brand	90	210	—	—	-7
Gargellen	60	170	—	—	-5
Hochsölden	80	140	—	—	[illegible]
Ischgl	110	230	—	—	-12
Kaprun	—	310	—	—	-14
Kitzbühel	70	195	—	—	[illegible]
Lech	170	300	—	—	-10
Lermoos	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	-4
Lienz	20	100	—	—	-5
Mayrhofen	30	120	—	—	-8
[illegible]	85	230	—	—	-15
Obergurgl	135	240	—	—	-8
[illegible]	[illegible]	360	—	—	-10
Saalbach	90	175	—	—	[illegible]
St Anton	100	400	—	—	-13
Schruns	60	200	—	—	-5
Seefeld	90	170	—	—	-10
Serfaus	75	180	—	—	-8
Söll	100	150	—	—	-5
Wildschönau	—	210	—	—	-11
Zürs	170	270	—	—	-11
GERMANY					
Berchtesgaden	50	100	Pwdr	—	-6
Garmisch	70	100	Pwdr	—	-4
Hindelang	[illegible]	130	Old sn	—	[illegible]
Kleinwalsertal	[illegible]	210	Pwdr	—	-5
Mittenwald	70	180	Pwdr	—	-8
Oberammergau	70	130	Pwdr	—	-6
Oberstaufen	140	150	Pwdr	—	-7
Oberstdorf	140	250	Pwdr	—	-7
NORWAY					
Finse	—	280	Good	—	-7
Geilo	—	105	Good	—	-5
Gol	—	10	Good	—	[illegible]
Lillehammer	—	87	Pwdr	—	-3
Norefjell	—	60	Good	—	-2
Oslo	—	60	Good	—	-3
Voss	—	180	Good	—	-1
Rjukan	—	60	Good	—	-4

Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
FA CUP: Third round, second replay: Wrexham v West Ham United.
LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final round, first leg: Manchester City v Liverpool (7.45).
THIRD DIVISION: Exeter v Portsmouth.
SCOTTISH CUP: Second round replay: Arbroath v Albion Rovers.
FA TROPHY: First round replays: Maidstone United v Hastings United; Scarborough v Mossley; Winsford United v Lancaster; Yeovil v Frome Town.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Cheltenham v Enderby.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Hertford Town v Maidenhead United.
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Isthmian League XI v Combined Services (at Slough Town).
OTHER MATCHES: Chelsea v DS 79, Netherlands (7.45). Edgware v Wimbledon.
RUGBY UNION: Civil Service v RAF (at Chiswick, 2.30); Hampshire v Army (at Aldershot, 2.15); Moseley v Loughborough Students; Neath v Ebbw Vale (7.0); Newport v Cross Keys (7.15); Royal Navy v Metropolitan Police (at Portsmouth, 2.30); United Banks v Middlesex (at Bank of England, Roehampton, 3.30).
HOCKEY: London league: Bromley v Oxford University (2.30); Spencer v London University (2.30). Representative match: Cambridge University v East XI (2.30).

Basketball

Law court may be different venue for Crystal Palace

By Nicholas Harling

The masters of matters on the playing court, Crystal Palace, may shortly be involved in a dispute of a vastly different nature, in the court of law.

The issue concerns not the club's men, whose two victories at the weekend took them back to the top of the National League, but two Australian international women who might now be with Crystal Palace Toppy's if the English Basket Ball Association had sanctioned their signings before Saturday's transfer deadline.

Jenny Cheeseman and Pat Micken, who never appeared for Southgate Wisps, the club they originally joined in September, because the EBBA ordered their licences to be returned as their registration were invalid, have now placed the matter in the hands of their solicitor.

If those girls are experiencing mental anguish, some of Palace's men are certainly suffering an equal amount of physical pain. Peter Jeremich's knee injury puts him out of the weekend matches and the second game against Talbot Guildford was also missed by their guard, Alton Byrd, who sprained an ankle after scoring 24 points at Stockport the previous evening. Byrd may well have to sit out next Saturday's match with Ovaltine and Sunday's visit to Kelly Girl Kingston, but should be fit for the national cup final with Doncaster at Coventry on January 23. Palace are less optimistic that Jeremich will recover in time

Jeremich, one of the Palace players who would be most affected should the EBBA impose restrictions on clubs employing players of dual nationality, may have his position resolved at the weekend.

The EBBA are proposing new three-year residential qualifications to the national executive committee, which will permit players like Jeremich, his team colleague Dan Lloyd and Don Reid of Team Fiat to stay and play for their present clubs. They must, however, spend at least 183 days in Britain for at least three of 10 seasons.

Reid came his closest yet to finishing on the losing side in Fiat's game on Saturday. With two minutes left Sunderland were seven points ahead, Fiat having had both their top scorers John Stroeder (22 points) and Greg White (21) fouled out in addition to Neville Hopkins. Fiat still managed to win 100—98 in a breathless finish, which means that their undefeated league record and the championship will almost certainly be at stake in their match at Palace on February 5.

Boxing

Board's next move on Ali

The British Boxing Board of Control are likely to mark time on the question of John L. Gardner's proposed bout with Muhammad Ali at their monthly meeting in London today. Against the board's wishes, Gardner's manager Micky Duff recently signed contracts for a bout with Ali, who they believe should not be allowed to continue boxing

The board now have to decide whether to ban Gardner from going through with the contest "for the good of boxing" and risk running into legal problems involving Gardner's right to earn his living.

Ray Clarke, the board's secretary, said no decision would be taken whether to stop Gardner until the board received a formal application from him.

S. Korean next for Hagler

Seoul, Jan 13.—The South Korean middleweight Park Chong-Pal is next in line for a tilt at Marvin Hagler's undisputed world title, the South Korea Boxing Commission (KBC) said here today.

The KBC said that Park would meet Hagler if the shaven-headed Bostonian successfully defended against the Venezuelan challenger Fulgencio Obelmejias in his hometown this Saturday. The bout would take place somewhere in United States on March 22, the KBC said.

The 21-year-old South Korean, ranked third by the World Boxing Council has defended the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation title seven times in 16 months.

SPORT

Rugby Union

The Chinese dish that is served up with dash

By Gordon Allan

Royal Free 10 Charing Cross 6

Royal Free beat Charing Cross by two penalty goals and a try to two penalty goals at Teddington yesterday to reach the second round of the Hospitals Cup rugby competition. Their next opponents will be St Bartholomew's at the King's College Hospital ground on *January 27*.

The match began 20 minutes late, with Royal Free wearing most of the colours of the rainbow because their jerseys had not arrived. Another 10 minutes went by before they did turn up, by which time Renfrew had given Royal Free the lead with a penalty from close range.

Royal Free, with a stop-gap stand-off half, Havard, played a dogged game and seemed to have their teamwork in slightly better order than Charing Cross's. Otto Chan, their Chinese flank forward, who used to captain London University, made himself useful all over the field, appearing at centre one moment, full back the next, and even throwing the ball in once at a lineout. A man for *all positions, especially the* unexpected. He limped off shortly before the end. Morris, at No 8, was another forward to do his bit and more.

Renfrew kicked another simple penalty, and Richards a longer one for Charing Cross, to make the half-time score 6—3 to Royal Free. Richards also hit a post.



Photograph by Brian Harris

Otto Chan, the everywhere man: the Chinese flanker pops up from nowhere at Teddington.

Hinchley scrambled back in the nick of time to prevent a Royal Free try after Ottley, the Charing Cross right wing, had thrown a pass into the wilderness. Charing Cross's handling and passing were suspect throughout, which meant that some clever running by Alan Scourfield, in particular, went for nought.

Evans scored Royal Free's try in the second half, working a scissors with Havard and then dodging through a crowd of players to cross by the posts. Richards kicked his second penalty for Charing Cross soon afterwards, but Royal Free held out without overmuch difficulty, to earn their chance against bigger fry.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL: W. Ribbans; C. Renfrew, J. Jackson, R. Evans, R. Martin; J. Havard, R. Hinchley; B. Wood-Juster, M. Payne, ... Tattersall, T. O'Kelly, A. Doble, J. Sullivan, P. Morris, O. Chan (replacement, J. Westbrook).

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL: M. Chopin; G. Ottley, A. Scourfield, ... Richards ...

Referee: G. Fowlis (London).

Bedford release second choice Peck

Ian Peck, Cambridge University's scrum half and captain who has been kept out of Bedford's first team this season by Nick Youngs, has been told he can leave the club. Bedford have had both players with them since they left school but now feel it would be unfair to hold on to both of them.

They have decided that Youngs is their first choice scrum half and said yesterday: "The club would dearly love to retain the services of both players but recognizes that players of such quality need to play each week at the highest level. Therefore it would be unfair to expect these players either to *operate on a rota basis in the first* team or for one of them to play permanently for the second team."

Peck is in his final year at Cambridge and Youngs is studying at Shuttleworth Agricultural College.

Saracens field a full strength side, showing six changes from last weekend, for the home match against Moseley on Saturday. The full back Maynard, centre Smithers and scrum half Milford all return after injury and Booty, Rooker, Jaszczak, second row forward, and Keay No 8, are available again.

Wasps make three changes for their home game against Gloucester. Stringer returns at full back for Evans, Cole takes over from Bell on the wing and Perkins comes *in for* Bruce at centre.

Gloucester Rugby Club expect record receipts for the Thorn County Championship final on Saturday, January 31 when Gloucestershire, last year's beaten finalists, entertain Northumberland.

Try in injury time finally brings reward to UCH

By Richard Streeton

UCH 8 St George's 6

A try in the sixth minute of *injury time finally rewarded* ceaseless second half pressure by University College Hospital yesterday in this first round Hospitals Cup tie at Cobham, which they won by two tries to a goal. Until then it seemed that the grit of St George's in defence was going to be enough for them to succeed against the run of play.

St George's were first to settle in the bitter cold and wind and briefly looked a well organized and committed side; gradually, though, the UCH forwards assumed control. For a time their backs kicked too much, but throughout the second half they used their possession more *sensibly*.

Long before the end St George's were conducting almost continuous rearguard actions near their own line. In these Harrison and Roberts worked endlessly, and Price and Patterson, too, covered and tackled surely. Graham, the UCH full back, had a sound match; Clark ran with constant threats on the left; and Gordon-Brown, the *number eight, in tight and loose* was the dominant figure in the pack.

In the first half there was no scoring until the *fifth minute of* injury time (the game lasted a total of 91 minutes). Then, when UCH attacked strongly, a pass went astray on the St George's 22; Price collected the loose ball and ran the length of the field to score and convert the try himself. Previously he had gone close with three lengthy penalty attempts, one of them hitting an upright, and two speedy dashes by Clark to the corner had almost brought tries for UCH.

During the wave upon wave of second half attacks by UCH Soutter once sent Ramshaw across the line, but the flanker dropped the ball before he could touch down. Twelve minutes remained when Gordon-Brown picked up from the back of a ruck near the line and scored a try. Crean was wide with the conversion from the touchline and then narrowly failed with two long-range penalty attempts. The eleventh hour winning score came from a scrummage inside the St George's 22, Gordon-Brown starting a handling movement to the left that ended with Clark scoring in the corner.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL: G. Graham; H. Trechman, M. Thomas, N. Toriot, T. Clark; S. J. Crean, J. H... ; G. Dent, ... Ramshaw, Walker, ... Gordon-Brown.

ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL: J. Patterson; A. Watts, P. Price, C. Owen, M. Ford; P. O'Keeffe, M. Wotherspoon; S. Pratt, M. Pringle, E. Neale, J. Weighman, J. Sabbah, M. Roberts, D. Matthews, J. Harrison (captain).

Referee: G. Ellis (London).

Slattery will go to South Africa with Irish

Fergus Slattery, the Irish captain, who decided not to go to South Africa with the British Lions *last year because of business commitments*, will be available for Ireland's controversial short tour there in May.

The 31-year-old Dublin estate agent revealed his desire to play the Springboks when he previewed this season's five nations championship.

Slattery, the world's most capped flanker, with 45 appearances for *Ireland and four for the* Lions on their unbeaten tour of South Africa in 1974, said: "The Lions tour last year meant taking far more time off work than I could afford. But as soon as I heard that Ireland's visit was on I decided it would be possible for me to go".

Slattery will be casting a keen eye on this weekend's two matches. "*I will be absolutely amazed if* England win the Grand Slam again", he said. "They will find it really hard on Saturday and I think Wales will win, although it should be very close. I was not surprised Wales made the changes they did. They needed to make them after losing so heavily to the All Blacks, but it's questionable whether they have the right formula just yet. England are a good side and will be hard to beat all season".

Slattery also fancies France to beat Scotland. "The French are always an unknown quantity at the start of a season, but they will be grateful for playing Scotland at home first".

Army Cup sponsors

The Army Cup is to be sponsored by the distillers, Whyte and Mackay. *The competition, which* began in 1906-7, and is open to all units of the Regular Army, is one of the oldest and largest of its kind in rugby. This year's final, between the champions of the United Kingdom and of BAOR, will be played at Aldershot on April 15.

Hockey

High-geared machine outpaces Pakistan

From Sydney Friskin

Karachi, Jan 13

Pakistan 3 Australia 4

Australia achieved a great victory over Pakistan here today in the third champions trophy hockey tournament, sponsored by PIA, and so brought about the second defeat of the world champions. They were beaten earlier in the week by the Netherlands, who in the second match today, drew 4—4 with West Germany to put themselves in a winning position with five points from three matches. They play Spain tomorrow and England on Friday.

Pakistan's last defeat by Australia was in the semi-final round of the 1976 Olympic tournament in Montreal. Since then Pakistan had beaten Australia four times on the last occasion by 3—1 in Kuala Lumpur last April. So Australia paid a few old scores to settle and they did so today with a rousing display of speed and stickwork.

The limitations of Pakistan's deep defence were exposed by the high-geared Australian forwards, particularly Thornton and Charlesworth. By the tenth minute of the second half Australia *had* taken a commanding 4—1 lead and although Pakistan made a spirited recovery an Australian victory was never *in doubt*. The Pakistan manager Tariq Aziz admitted that his team did not play well.

Irvine's conversion of a short corner in the eleventh minute spurred Australia to nobler deeds and a move initiated by Bell sent Thornton through to score *in* the thirtieth minute. Kaleemullah, who did not have a particularly good game, scored with a strong angular shot from a scramble a minute before half time.

But Kaleemullah's goal, far from inspiring his team, called for greater endeavour from Australia and in the early minutes of the second half Thornton and Charlesworth seized chances to *score from close range. Pakistan's* forwards established better understanding about midway in this period and Hanif drove a hard *shot into goal from a pass* by Quaiser Iqbal, who had come in as a substitute. Seven minutes before the end Hanif scored again after Kaleemullah had swung at the ball and missed but Australia had no more anxiety.

If the local crowd were disappointed with the result of the earlier match they were delighted with the one that followed. It was a *pleasure to see young players* running into the opposition and displaying exceptional skills. The Netherlands took a 2—0 lead *through Bouwman and Doyer*. Then Peter brought the Germans back into the game by converting a penalty stroke and a short corner.

In the tenth minute of the second half Kruize converted a penalty stroke but their lead was cancelled out when the umpire allowed Blocher to score from a short corner after an incorrect hand stop. The Germans then went ahead with a goal by Peter from a short corner but in the last couple of minutes Kruize saved the match *for the Dutch*.

AUSTRALIA: G. Reid; J. Irvine, C. Davies, D. Bell, T. Smith, G. Boyce, T. Walsh, C. Batch, W. Thornton, R. Charlesworth (captain), T. Leece.

PAKISTAN: Qamar Zia; Ehsanullah, Nasir Nasoer, Rashidul Hassan, *Akhtar* Rasool (captain), Mohammed Rashid, Kaleemullah, Manzoor Hussain, Mushtaq Ahmed (sub Quaiser Iqbal), Hanif Khan, Samiullah.

Umpires: J. Stubing (West Germany) and A. De Vecchi (Italy).

Cricket

N Zealand's one-run win improves chances of qualifying for finals

From Dilip Rao

Sydney, Jan 13

This high-scoring match in the Benson and Hedges World Series cup competition contained all the ingredients that makes a classic overs-limit game. There was some splendid batting on both sides, the initiative changed hands many times and the issue remained open until the very last ball. Australia, who had looked certain winners until four overs from the end, should have been content even to equal *New Zealand's score of 220*, for, in this situation, they would have got the one point needed to take them into the $25,000 final, to be played over the best of five matches.

With their glorious win, New Zealand have greatly enhanced their chances of qualifying. They could do so even if they lost their two remaining matches against India and one against Australia, whom they play next, on Thursday in Brisbane. In case of a tie of points between them and India, the decisive factor would be the scoring rate and currently they lead India by a long way in this sphere.

Considering the heavy setbacks they have suffered on this tour and the fact that they were without a leading bowler in Troup, who has gone home injured, New Zealand today were resilient and remained calm through every crisis with Howarth leading them in expert fashion. The first crisis struck New Zealand quite early in the match. Having elected to bat first they lost Edgar and Howarth *in* getting their first 30 runs. But Wright raised their fortunes with a mature innings of 78 which *ended at 176 in the 43rd over*.

Wright was sixth out and in less than another three overs, New Zealand slumped to 191 for eight *but Ian Smith, pressed into service due to an injury to Lees, played most resourcefully to make* 23 off only 19 balls and New Zealand had made enough runs to put Australia under pressure. A second wicket partnership of 56 in 15 overs between Wood and Greg Chappell gave the Australian innings a sound foundation. Chappell from a poor shot was third out at 90 just as the innings approached the half way mark.

The issue was thrown wide open when the fourth and fifth wickets, those of Hughes and Trevor *Chappell fell within* a run of each other, at 122 and 123. But Walters had already got established and Marsh soon mounted a furious offensive with Marsh in the forefront, the sixth wicket pair added 78 from 15 overs and the match *seemed* as good as over when Marsh, who made 49 off 48 balls was late with a hook at Hadlee and was caught behind. At *this point, Australia wanted only* another 20 from 21 balls.

The gap narrowed to 18 from the last three overs, 13 from the last two and eight from the final one, bowled by Snedden, a young seam bowler who has bowled with improving control from match to match.

Graf faced the bowling at the start of the last over, he failed to make contact with the first ball, but five more runs were scrambled in various ways before Walters faced the last ball, with three runs wanted for a win. He pulled at it and Hadlee dived to make a stop. Still sprawled out, he got the ball back to the bowler's end before Graf could make his ground at the bowler's end and New Zealand had scored their second win in consecutive *matches*.

The Australian Cricket Board today announced fines for slow over rates in this series. The fines have been introduced because the over rate for the first nine games *has been only just over 13 six-ball* overs an hour. The board chairman, Phil Ridings, said that, in essence, a side that did not bowl its full 50 overs *and did not dis*miss the opposing side in the three-and-a-half hours session *would* be penalized.

If 49 overs were bowled, a $600 penalty would be deducted from that team's prize money for the match. *For each over less than* 49 overs bowled, the penalty would be an additional $1,200 per over until that team's prize money had been exhausted. *There will be pro*vision for the penalty to be reviewed if the batting side engages in time wasting activities.

NEW ZEALAND

J. G. Wright, c T. Chappell, b G. Chappell	78
B. A. Edgar, b Hogg	0
*G. P. Howarth, l-b-w, b Pascoe	20
J. M. Parker, c Pascoe, b T. Chappell	23
M. G. Burgess, c Walker, b Graf	14
J. V. Coney, c Marsh, b Pascoe	18
R. J. Hadlee, c Hogg, b Graf	9
B. L. Cairns, b Pascoe	7
I. D. S. Smith, not out	23
M. C. Snedden, not out	8
Extras (lb 16, nb 3, w 1)	20
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	220

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—2, 2—30, 3—75, 4—105, 5—134, 6—176, 7—181, 8—191.

E. J. Chatfield did not bat.

BOWLING: Lillee, 10—2—27—0; Hogg, 8—0—10—1; Pascoe, 10—0—37—3; G. Chappell, 9—2—35—1; Graf, 10—0—40—2; T. Chappell, 3—0—21—1.

AUSTRALIA

A. R. Border, b Chatfield	8
G. M. Wood, c Smith, b Coney	37
*G. S. Chappell, c Coney, b Cairns	30
K. J. Hughes, c Smith, b Snedden	21
K. D. Walters, not out	50
T. M. Chappell, run out	0
R. W. Marsh, c Smith, b Hadlee	49
S. F. Graf, run out	7
Extras (b 3, lb 12, w 1, nb 1)	17
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	219

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—18, 2—74, 3—90, 4—122, 5—123, 6—201, 7—219.

D. K. Lillee, R. M. Hogg, L. S. Pascoe did not bat.

BOWLING: Hadlee, 10—1—46—1; Chatfield, 10—2—26—1; Coney, 10—0—41—1; Cairns, 10—1—48—1; Snedden, 10—0—41—1.

The star that brought down Indians in the last act

Canberra, Jan 13.—The *Indians* had a further humiliation here today when the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) beat them in a two day single innings match. ACT batted all day to make 304 for six in reply to India's first innings of 302 for six declared. The game is not officially recorded as a win for the ACT, but when the all-rounder Neil Bulger hammered a boundary *just after the stipulated* closing time it was treated as if it were a first class victory by the local crowd. The umpires continued the match after the closing time to allow the Indians to bowl 20 overs in the last hour.

Bulger, a 29-year-old Aboriginal had an excellent match for he bowled splendidly in India's innings with his left arm medium pace and then today hit an unbeaten 57 in only 76 minutes with one six over the midwicket fence and five boundaries.

The Indian attack was hampered today by the absence of their all-rounder Kapil Dev, who bowled only four overs this morning before retiring from the field with a virus.

The Indian team manager, Wing Commander Shahid Durrani, said *he believed Kapil would be fit for* Thursday's limited over game against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground. In his absence, the off-spinner Yadav bowled 31.3 overs *to finish* with four for 87 without ever threatening to bring about a collapse.

ACT's openers Khan (69) and Campbell (28) shared a dour first wicket stand of 58 in 135 minutes to pave the way for the first innings lead. Rogers drove the ball stylishly for his 53 in only 67 minutes

The Indians fly to Sydney tomorrow for their limited over game against Australia, but the crucial match for the tourists will be the final qualifying match of the Benson and Hedges World Series Cup competition against New Zealand in Brisbane on Sunday.

INDIANS 302 for 6 dec (*Y. Sharma* 74, Kapil Dev 68, K. Azad 56).

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

W. Campbell, l-b-w, b Yadav	28
T. Khan, c Patil, b Yadav	69
P. *O'Reilly*, c *Srinivasan*, b Yadav	30
R. Rogers, c sub, b Chauhan	53
b Chauhan	53
K. Owen, run out	10
G. Irvine, c Yaspal, b Yadav	4
N. Bulger, not out	57
E. Nix, not out	28
Extras (b 6, l-b 8, w 2, n-b 9)	25
Total (6 wckts)	304

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—58, 2—159, 3—166, 4—207, 5—210, 6—221.

BOWLING: Yograj, 18—4—42—0; Kapil Dev, 7—4—5—0; Yadav, 31.3—7—94—4; Binny, 15—3—42—0; Patil, 8—4—13—0; *Azad*, 15—2—55—0; Chauhan, 5—0—28—1.—Agence France-Presse.

DACCA: Bangladesh 143, MCC 11 for 1.

Supporters pay £50,000 for ground cover

Warwickshire's Supporters Association say they have to foot a bill of nearly £50,000 for a new automatic covering system at *Edgbaston*. Starting with the county championship fixture against Yorkshire on May 6, Warwickshire's groundsman, Bernard *Flack, will be able to cover over* more than three acres of the playing area in 12 minutes at the push of a button.

*The secretary, Alan Smith, con*firming the club's order for the first cricket cover of its type in the world, said: "We are not going out on a limb at this stage, but our aim is to convince the public that there will be cricket at Edgbaston next summer unless it is raining."

Warwickshire were planning to finance the installation from club funds.

The county needed TCCB permission to use the system which entails a giant roller taking the *cover over* the match pitch at a pressure of one pound a square inch. Technically, this is contrary to the regulations on pitch rolling, *but Mr Smith revealed*: "the weight involved is very much less than an ordinary light roller."

Warwickshire *are still awaiting* Australian approval *for the cover* to be allowed during the Prudential Trophy match at Edgbaston on June 6 and the fourth Test match starting on *July 30*.

Racing

Snowtown Boy could leave Irish out in the cold

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent

With £20,000 added to the sweepstakes, the Lambert and Butler Premier Steeplechase final will be the most valuable race ever run at Ascot over jumps on Saturday, always assuming that *the cold snap which put paid to* both of yesterday's two meetings and to Plumpton's card today as well, does not persist.

Sponsored by W. D. & H. O. Wills, this series has been in existence since 1970. But until this season, it was known as the Embassy Premier Steeplechase, and in that guise the final always took place at Haydock Park. The title changed when the sponsors decided to stage the final at Ascot

Under its former banner, the final was won four times by horses trained in Ireland, and with three Irish runners among the nine acceptors at yesterday's four-day forfeit stage, that country's stables are particularly *well* represented again. If the antepost book opened yesterday by the William Hill Organisation is anything to go by, only Fred Winter's runner Snowtown Boy is capable of preventing the Irish entries from finishing first, second and third.

No trainer has a better record in the race than Winter, who has won *it* three times, initially in 1974 with Credibility; again two years later with Floating Pound, and most recently in 1978 with The Dealer. In Snowtown Boy Winter trains a worthy favourite. He has had the final in the forefront of his mind for Snowtown Boy ever since he won his qualifying race at Lingfield Park at the beginning of December.

Hills make the grey favourite to improve his trainer's record at 2-1. Then they go 100-30 Royal Bond, 7-2 Royal Dipper, and 5-1 Light the Wad. They are the three Irish acceptors. Royal Bond, who won the qualifier staged at Ascot in October, is trained by Arthur Moore, whose late and *much respected father, Dan*, trained L'Escargot to win the first final at Haydock in 1970, not to mention the Gold Cup of that and the following year, and the Grand National in 1975.

Royal Bond appeared to have luck on his side when he qualified for the final, because three of his most dangerous rivals all fell. However, he still promises to be a tough nut to crack because he did well for a comparative beginner to win a sponsored handicap steeplechase at Fairyhouse *five weeks ago*.

Corals, who are also betting on the race antepost, are clearly of the opinion that Royal Bond will be a *thorn in Snowtown Boy's* side, because they will lay no more than 5-2 against him winning. On the other hand, they are offering more generous odds than Hills (9-2) against Royal Dipper, who was far from disgraced in his last race considering that he was taking on such accomplished jumpers as Chinrullah, Tied Cottage, and Anaglogs Daughter.

In his previous race, Royal Dipper had beaten the third Irish acceptor, Light the Wad, by six lengths, but on Saturday he will be meeting Light the Wad on 10 lb worse terms.

STATE OF GOING (official): Plumpton: Abandoned, frost. Kelso: Soft (precautionary inspection 7.30 am). Tomorrow: Wincanton: Good to soft. Southwell: Soft.

American entry in record field at Leopardstown

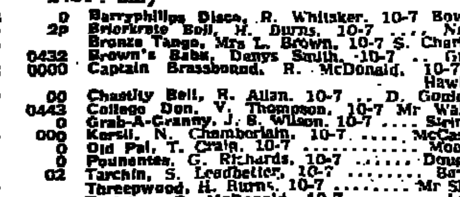
The American-trained horse Martie's Anger is among a record entry of 53 for the £15,000 Erin Foods Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown on February 14. Winner of the *Colonial Cup* in 1979 and nine other races, but still a maiden over hurdles, Martie's Anger is trained in South Carolina by Jonathon Shepherd, who is also the part owner.

"Bill Pape, the other co-owner *and myself are very keen to run* the horse at Leopardstown", Mr Shepherd said, "but a lot will depend on the winter, which can *be quite severe over here*." The horse will then be moved to Tim Forster to be prepared for Cheltenham and one other race in *England, perhaps at Liverpool*.

English entries for the Champion Hurdle include Pollardstown, Celtic Ryde and the 1979 winner *Connaught Ranger, third behind* Carrig Willy in the Sweeps Handicap Hurdle at Leopardstown. Carrig Willy and the 1977 winner Master Monday are among the Irish-trained entries, which also include other Cheltenham hopefuls in Daring Run and Chinrullah. There are four other English entries: Mount Harvard, trained by Nicky Henderson and three from the Derek Kent's stable—Jugador. Full Sutton and Ivareen.

Frost affects course

There will be an inspection at *7.30 this morning to see whether* racing will be possible at Kelso, though the Clerk of the Course, Bill McHarg, is optimistic about it going ahead. Today's *races* at Plumpton have been abandoned because of frost in the ground.



Kelso programme

12.45 COLDSTREAM HURDLE (4-y-o novices: £451: 2m)

2 0 Barryphillips Disco, R. Whitaker, 10-7 Bowker
5 2p Briefkrete Bell, H. Burns, 10-7 .... Nolan
6 Bronze Tango, Mrs L. Brown, 10-7 S. Charlton
7 0432 Brown's Baby, Denys Smith, 10-7 .. Grant
8 0000 Captain Brassbound, R. McDonald, 10-7 Hawkins
9 00 Chastity Bell, R. Allan, 10-7 .. D. Goulding
10 0443 College Don, V. Thompson, 10-7 Mr Walton
11 0 Grab-A-Granny, J. S. Wilson, 10-7 .... Stringer
15 000 Korsil, N. Chamberlain, 10-7 ..... McCaskill
17 0 Old Pal, T. Craig, 10-7 .... Mooney
18 0 Pounentes, G. Richards, 10-7 .... Doughty
19 02 Tarchin, S. Leadbetter, 10-7 .... Barnes
20 Threepwood, H. Burns, 10-7 .... Mr Shaw
21 Turleton, R. McDonald, 10-7 .... Lamb

7-4 Brown's Baby, 5-1 Tarchin, 7-2 College Don, 6-1 Pounentes, 8-1 Briefkrete Bell, 10-1 Captain Brassbound, 14-1 others.

1.15 DUNS CHASE (Handicap: £774: 2m 196yd)

1 04p1 Only Money, G. Richards, 10-12-6 Mr Todhunter
2 0003 Polars Smartie (CD), R. Goldie, 10-12-4 Lamb
4 3210 Caravino (CD), R. Whitaker, 8-11-7 Bowker
5 p002 Border Brig, R. Brewis, 10-11-6 .... Pimlott
6 -3032 Burgundy Beau (CD), Mrs D. Thomson, 10-11-12 ...... Mr Walton
9 022p Oakley Cross (CD), N. Chamberlain, 10-10-2 McCaskill

15-8 Burgundy Beau, 5-2 Border Brig, 4-1 Only Money, 9-2 Caravino, 15-2 Polars Smartie, 8-1 Oakley Cross.

1.45 HAIG WHISKY HURDLE (Novices: Qualifier: £1,000: 2m)

6 0- Easy Music, V. Thompson, 7-11-0 .. Mr Walton
7 000b Gadabout, E. Owen, Jun, 7-11-0 .... Wilding
10 Lady Craigie, S. Leadbetter, 6-11-0 .. Barnes
11 3-040 Piper's Knoll, W. Crawford, 7-11-0 .. —
12 0 Ruboreo, D. Thomson, 7-11-0 ...... Mr Dun
13 0p0-0 Water Crescent, R. Allan, 6-11-0 .. Holohan
14 0033 Winning Brief, M. Naughton, 6-11-0 .. Grant
15 f0f Aragon, J. Nelson, 5-10-10 .... Murphy
16 0u Avon Melody, D. MacDonald, 5-10-10 J. Goulding
17 Caneel Bay, G. Richards, 5-10-10 .. Doughty
19 04 Final Argument, G. Richards, 5-10-10 Barry
21 Rusbecia, R. Whitaker, 5-10-10 .... Bowker
22 0p Strider Brown, G. Bell, 5-10-10 .... Lamb

9-4 Final Argument, 3-1 Winning Brief, 7-2 Piper's Knoll, 6-1 Caneel Bay, 8-1 Avon Melody, 10-1 Strider Brown, 12-1 others.

2.15 SWINTON CHASE (Handicap: £1,167: 3m)

1 -3004 Rubstic (CD), S. Leadbetter, 12-11-10 Barnes
2 p-0f3 Brawny Scot, G. Richards, 11-11-9 .... Barry
4 p/30 Sebastian V, G. Bell, 13-10-9 .... Lamb
5 1330 Carndonagh (CD), C. Dun, 11-10-6 S. Charlton

6-4 Sebastian V, 2-1 Brawny Scot, 4-1 Rubstic, 15-2 Carndonagh.

2.45 DRYBURGH CHASE (Novices: £852: 3m)

2 u144 Lordel (CD), S. Leadbetter, 9-11-7 M. Barnes
3 00-0p Arpal Glider, K. Oliver, 7-11-0 ...... Mr Dun
6 0p0f Glen Louise, T. Robson, 8-11-0 ... McDougall
7 30up Highway Dual, C. Bell, 6-11-0 ...... Pimlott
8 -2000 Irish Morn, C. Lamb, 8-11-0 .... Lamb
9 0000 Misty Rascal, W. Crawford, 6-11-0 .. Doughty
10 p004 Mystic Match, J. Brockbank, 7-11-0 Mr Eubank
11 ff4f Pops Girl, K. Oliver, 8-11-0 .... —
12 0/p-p Rennerdale, D. MacDonald, 7-11-0 J. Goulding
14 2-022 Spartan Red, H. McConnell, 11-11-0 Mrs Robertson
15 2/p-0 Thirty Miles, K. Oliver, 8-11-0 .... O'Connell
16 141/ Waite, M. Dickinson, 11-12-0 ...... Carmody
17 fp00 What a Coup, T. Dalgetty, 6-11-0 ...... Nolan

9-4 Spartan Red, 5-2 Waite, 4-1 Lordel, 15-2 Arpal Glider, 8-1 Irish Morn, 10-1 Highway Dual, 14-1 others.

3.15 GRANTSHOUSE HURDLE (Handicap: £654: 2m)

4 0112 Splendid Again (D), G. Lockerbie, 6-10-7 Houlker
5 2400 Northern Support (CD), A. Scott, 7-10-4 Pimlott
6 0010 Bobby Brig (CD), C. Lamb, 5-10-3 .. Lamb
7 0-000 Shalotra (CD), T. Craig, 5-10-2 .... Bowker
8 1-000 True Friend (D), A. Eubank, 7-10 J. Goulding
9 3004 High Hills, T. Craig, 7-10-0 ...... Carmody
11 1-000 Nodana (D), T. Craig, 5-10-0 .... Grant
15 000-0 Sole Investment, T. Craig, 7-10-0 D. Goulding
16 0030 Lord Melbourne, A. Bell, 7-10-0 .... Stringer
17 -0020 Lunar Wind, J. Parkes, 6-10-0 .. McCaskill 7

7-4 Splendid Again, 6-2 Bobby Brig, 5-1 High Hills, 7-1 Northern Support, 10-1 Shalotra, 14-1 others.

Kelso selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

12.45 Tarchin. 1.15 Caravino. 1.45 Final Argument. 2.15 Sebastian V. 2.45 Waite. 3.15 Splendid Again.

Tennis

Lincolnshire (Chicago) girl has to bend the knee

Landover, Maryland, Jan. 13.—Tracy Austin, aged 18, beat Andrea Jaeger, aged 15, 6—2, 6—2, in the final of the Colgate tournament. The older girl overwhelmed the younger with another demonstration of her prowess at the baseline game. Her victory earned her $75,000, Miss Jaeger *winning $40,000*.

A schoolgirl from the Chicago suburb of Lincolnshire, Miss Jaeger had reached the final with a superb three-set upset of the Czechoslovak, Martina Navratilova, on Saturday night, but she had no answer to the groundstroke power of Miss Austin.

They traded service breaks at the beginning, then Miss Austin, thumping her *drives deep into the* corners of the court, broke Miss Jaeger in the fourth and sixth games for a commanding 5—1 lead. Miss Jaeger broke back in the seventh, but lost her service for the fourth time in the set when she hit a forehand down the line inches long to give Miss Austin a one-set advantage.

Miss Jaeger held her service for the first time in the second game *of the second set, but was broken* again two games later. Miss Austin had a break point against her in the next game but survived *it to go in front 4—1. Miss Jaeger* won her service a second time, then after Miss Austin held her service for 5—2 she broke Miss Jaeger for the sixth time in the match to ensure victory.

The tournament brought together the top eight women in the 1980 international series points standings, but while the rest of the cream of women's tennis faltered here, Miss Austin was in top form and won the championship easily.

GUAYAQUIL: Davis Cup, American Zone, *south section, first round*: Uruguay beat Ecuador 3—2. Uruguay play Chile in the second round.

KANSAS CITY: Women's singles, first round (US unless stated): V. Wade (GB) beat S. Walsh, 6—1, 6—3; P. Teeguarden beat T. Holladay, 6—4, 1—6, 6—1; B. Potter beat B. Hallquist, 6—4, 6—1; S. Collins beat R. Fairbank, 6—4, 6—3; P. Louie beat B. Nagelsen, 7—6, 6—0; J. Russell beat S. *Margolin*, 6—4, 6—0; S. Hanika (WG) beat M. Pistek, 6—0, 6—3.

Rugby League

Oxley will tell RFU about French situation

By Keith Macklin

After a weekend in France reading newspaper accounts of the "deplorable conduct" of the *international* centre, Jean-Marc Bourret, and accusations of rampant professionalism in French Rugby Union, the secretary general of the Rugby League, David Oxley, is to write to the Rugby Football Union "simply pointing out the *situation between* Rugby Union and Rugby League in France".

Mr Oxley has been angered by the behaviour of Bourret, a feeling shared by French Rugby League officials and supporters. Bourret *recently accepted a* Rugby League award on a Friday evening, played for France against New Zealand on Saturday and signed for the Rugby Union club, Perpignan, on Sunday after allegedly pocketing a signing-on fee of £2,000.

"Other French Rugby League players have been approached by French Rugby Union clubs", Mr Oxley said. "The French newspapers refer to professionalism in the French Rugby Union game quite openly and the Rugby League newspapers and magazines are saying things like 'Bourret was one of the greatest league players in France, now he must be forgotten'".

Mr Oxley pointed out that in 1931 France had been expelled from the international championship after accusations of professionalism, and Rugby League in France was born.

The venue for the John Player Trophy final has been confirmed as *Central Park*, Wigan, on Saturday, January 24.

Rackets

Crawley relies on instinct of a gambler

By Roy McKelvie

Randall Crawley *is a player of* considerable talent but short of concentration as occasionally he showed in the amateur rackets singles championships at Queen's Club, London yesterday. He might claim that deep attention to the job in hand did not matter too much when beating Julian Paul, one of four rackets playing brothers and a father as well, by *15—6, 15—12, 15—13 but other* and bigger occasions have seen his mind wander.

Paul is the original double-handed backhand player and he can hit hard on that wing though, perhaps, too much round the walls. His main weakness was his service from the forehand court. The ball often came out into the court presenting Crawley with a clear stroke and an opponent who had neither time nor space to reach the return.

Paul led 10—4 in the second game and never really looked like going much further. He recovered to 13—13 in the third game when Crawley, confidence or his gambler's instinct emerging, decided not to set. It came off. Crawley is the youngest *player* to win the schools singles championship while at Harrow. He was 16 and three months whereas this season's winner James Male, of Radley, was six months older.

Paul Nicholls, Crawley's next *opponent, beat Peter Seabrook* by 15—7, 15—9, 15—4 in a match lacking flow or rhythm. Rather, it was a succession of services or strokes and few rallies.

RESULTS: J. C. A. Leslie beat C. M. Ohlson, 15—6, 15—3, 1—13, 17—14. P. C. Nicholls beat P. G. Seabrook, 15—7, 15—9, 15—4; R. A. Crawley beat M. J. L. Paul 15—6, 15—12, 15—13.

David Taylor's goal is to be a world champion canoeist

Briton aims to tame wild waters

By Richard Streeton

Among sports that put a man's courage and skill at stake against nature and the elements there are *few more spectacular and testing than the form of canoeing known* as wild water racing. Like fell running, mountaineering or potholing, its devotees are individualists: unknown and unsung they share a physical hardness and a single mindedness far beyond the norm.

Such a man is David Taylor, a 22-year-old Gateshead canoeist, who will start favourite to beat the hundred or so representatives from some 20 countries, and win the single-man kayak title, when the wild water world championships take place this summer at *Bala, North Wales*.

In wild water canoeing the competitors in turn descend about six miles of fast flowing river, and the more rocks, *rapids, swirl*ing undertows and other hazards there are, the better. The idea is to test a man's ability to handle his kayak in the most arduous conditions possible. Basic requirements are a cool head and the ability "to read" the water.

As Taylor points out: "At championship level it is not often that anyone capsizes. It is more a question of aggression and skill; you are taking on the river and the fittest and strongest man will have the fastest time if he gets everything else right".

The British Canoe Union will have the honour of being the first national association to stage the *world championships in* all three disciplines in one season. The wild water and slalom events are at Bala from July 15 to 24 and the flat *water sprint racing events are at* Holme Pierrepoint, Nottingham, from July 28 to August 2. The BCU have code-named the season "Canoe '81" and hope the televised coverage and numerous other events connected with the three championships will give British canoeing a boost.

There are at least 70,000 active canoeists *in* Britain that the BCU knows about through club affiliations, and countless others who do not take part in organized competition. Taylor is one of several British canoeists who have shown themselves able to hold their own in the highest *spheres against rivals from Europe*, Canada, New Zealand and other places where the natural terrain lends itself more to wild water racing than *in Britain*.

Taylor won the pre-world championships title at Bala this year on the river Tryweryn by the incredible margin of 23 seconds from another Briton, Robert Campbell, of Bedford. Normally there are only a few seconds between competitors, but Taylor's time of 26min 29.3sec left him a man apart. It was like an Olympic 10,000 metres winner finishing a lap or more ahead.

Taylor had been laid off from his work as an assistant instructor to apprentices at a Gateshead engineering firm in the two months before the event. "I had been having a dismal time on the European circuit and I sank all my frustrations in the sport, and at work, into preparing harder than ever before. There was nothing else to do and I really enjoyed myself. The continentals were shaken by my margin of victory and it has left me with a great psychological advantage."

British enthusiasts had known of Taylor's potential for much longer. He first took up canoeing at school; he had a consistent record in junior competitions and managed the progression to *senior events more smoothly than* many. Originally he was a slalom specialist but switched to wild water racing when he became *irked by the chanciness of slalom* events. "One mistake perhaps not entirely of your own making, and you hit a post and hours of training are wasted."

It was in the 1979 world championships in Quebec that the rest of the world became aware of Taylor. His ninth placing was far higher than expected. He was also in the British team which won a bronze medal in the team event; they missed first place by 1.2 seconds. Since then Taylor has *travelled* extensively, broadening his competitive experience and absorbing the lessons from all sorts of conditions.

The river Tryweryn at Bala where Taylor seeks the world title lies immediately downstream of the man-made Llyn Celyn reservoir, which the Welsh Water Authority have guaranteed with discharge whatever flow of water is needed to ensure a successful championship. It is a thinking man's course calling for skill and technique, as much as power and strength, and should suit Taylor's style.

He is up at 5 am on most days for road running (he competes in half-marathons with a *local* club to vary his schedules) and twice daily he goes to Chester-le-Street for endurance work at canoeing. Miles upon miles of paddling mark his routine training with other visits to stretches of the Tees for rough water practice. He estimates that he drives some 35,000 miles a year for training and competitions.

Recently Taylor has acquired a local sponsor to help with his expenses, Messrs Silverscreen (Fine Screen Prints) Ltd, whose managing director, Keith Wickham, is a former holder of the British slalom title. Taylor is also *having a £500 boat built specially* for his world title race. Made from kevlar it will weigh only 15lb and he will not use it until the day of the race. *One way and* another it will not be for want of planning and dedication if Britain does not have a world champion next July.



Plain sailing: the men from Gateshead on course for Bala.

PARLIAMENT, January 13, 1981

Income tax decisions have not yet been taken

House of Commons

The Prime Minister is not worried about leaks about income tax decisions in the next Budget, because the decisions have not yet been taken, she said during question time.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab) had asked: Would the Prime Minister care to give us some help about some matters for which she is responsible? Could she give us some guidance about the latest batch of Cabinet leakages and tell us whether the statement that there is to be no increase in income tax in the next Budget is due to the Chancellor anticipating his Budget statement or to a leak?

Mrs Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C): These are leaks about decisions which have not yet been taken.

Mr Foot: Will she tell us whether we should attach any significance at all to this?

I know that the word "leakage" is too delicate for her, but can she give us any indication whether there is any foundation for these matters which have been in the press?

Mrs Thatcher: I can reassure Mr Foot that I am not worried about so-called leaks—(Laughter)—about decisions which have not been taken.

Mr Foot: Maybe the fact that she is not worried is because she is the leader of the leakers. She was the one who told the world about the "wets" and their performance in the Cabinet. We only want to know which side they are on and whether they are winning.

Mrs Thatcher: The Government is winning. (Laughter.)

Dr Shirley Summerskill (Halifax, Lab): As Mrs Thatcher stated on television that leaks do not make for efficient Cabinet government, is she now denying there have been any in recent months?

As she cannot, she should spend time tracking down the mole or moles among her ministers.

Mrs Thatcher: I have more important things to do.

MP's privilege complaint

The allegation of a Labour MP that Mr Ian MacGregor, Chairman of the British Steel Corporation, had threatened to end investment in his constituency if he persisted with criticisms in Parliament, is to be debated today (Wednesday).

The Speaker, Mr George Thomas said: I have received a letter from Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab) on a question of privilege. He alleges that at a meeting he had with the Chairman of the British Steel Corporation in December last year, Mr MacGregor informed him that if he persisted in making criticisms and attacks on the Corporation in Parliament, further investment in Workington would be ended.

If this is so, I am satisfied that precedence ought to be given. I therefore give precedence over the orders of the day tomorrow to a motion relating to Mr Campbell-Savours' complaint. No debate can arise now.

Election of parent governors will be kept under review

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said at question time that he would keep under review the possibility of setting a time limit for the implementation by schools of the provisions of the Education Act, 1980.

Mr Gerrard Neale (North Cornwall, C) had asked what his present proposals were for the implementation of those parts of the Act concerning parental choice and participation in schools.

Mr Carlisle (Runcorn, C): The school admission provisions of the Education Act, 1980, were brought into effect last October and will first apply to admissions to schools in the autumn of 1982.

The sections of the Act providing for the election of parent and teacher governors will be brought into effect by about Easter.

For existing schools, compliance with the new provisions will initially be voluntary, but I shall keep under review the possibility of setting a date by when it will be made compulsory, in the light of the progress made voluntarily and the availability of resources.

Mr Neale: Would he also re-affirm his support for parents who wish to participate further in the raising of voluntary aid and giving voluntary service to state schools and confirm that if necessary he will amend the 1944 Act to make it possible for local education authorities to accept such aid voluntarily?

Mr Carlisle: It is right to welcome any voluntary support that parents may wish to give towards the provision of their children's schools. At a time when finance is necessarily restrained, to discourage such support will do a disservice to education.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L): Is not the reality of his original answer that the much-vaunted right of parents to be members of school governing bodies will not come into effect, in the vast majority of schools, for many years?

Why take up the time of the House with this legislation when he is not prepared to implement it and grant those rights to parents with immediate effect?

Mr Carlisle: I do not accept that. He will find that what I have just said is totally consistent with what I said at second reading of the Bill. There are 26,000 primary and secondary schools. It is impossible to get them all to change their instruments of government overnight.

I said during the second reading debate that I was not proposing to set down a time limit in the first place, but would rely upon them to carry that out voluntarily.

If they do not move in that direction and if I believe their delay is unnecessary I will review the situation and consider whether I ought to impose a compulsory timetable, which the Act gives me power to do.

Mr William Shelton (Lambeth, Streatham, C): Parental choice must depend on knowledge and to some extent on the publication of examination results.

Mr Carlisle: Choice must depend on informed knowledge. Part of that informed knowledge should be knowledge about the academic standards of the school.

Mr Allen McKay (Penistone, Lab): In my constituency, where, due to Government stringency in finance, eight primary schools are closing, the term "parental choice" falls strangely on people's ears.

Mr Carlisle: The drop in the number of children of school age, particularly in the inner city areas—and we shall see 30 to 40 per cent fewer children of school age within the next decade—is bound to mean the closing of a certain number of primary schools if we are to leave schools of sufficient size to give an adequate, viable education to the children in them.

Visit to Afghanistan by Labour MPs deplored

The visit by three Labour MPs to Afghanistan last week was deplored by the Prime Minister during question time. She did not respond to an invitation to condemn also a Conservative visit to Zaire.

The matter was raised by Mr Fergus Montgomery (Altrincham and Sale, C), who asked Mrs Thatcher to confirm or contradict a report on East German radio that there was dismay in Whitehall over the visit of three Labour MPs to Afghanistan.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C): It is deplorable that MPs should give aid and comfort to a regime which is kept in power by 80,000 to 90,000 Soviet troops, and 10 per cent of whose people have found it necessary to flee the country as refugees.

Mr Allan Roberts (Bootle, Lab), one of the three visitors to Afghanistan, said: Does that answer mean that Mrs Thatcher will never on any occasion visit the Soviet Union? Does she imply that the three Labour MPs went with closed minds?

Conservative MPs: Yes.

Mr Roberts: Will she also condemn the Conservative MPs who visited the military dictatorship of Zaire during the recess?

Mrs Thatcher: The visit was to an independent country now occupied by Soviet troops. That occupation has been condemned not only by the whole Western world but by many non-aligned countries.

Mr Roberts: And by me.

Mrs Thatcher: To go there is to give aid and comfort to the occupying power.

Government close to school ratio target

The Government's plans provided for an overall pupil-teacher ratio of 18.8 in nursery, primary and secondary schools in England in January this year, and present indications were that the outturn would be very close to that figure, Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said during questions.

Mr William van Straubenzee (Wokingham, C): If effective educational provision can at least partly be measured by the pupil-teacher ratio, in spite of present economic difficulties, is that figure not an encouraging one to those concerned with education?

Mr Carlisle (Runcorn, C): It is. It is lower than the figure we inherited. The figure the year before last was 18.9. Last year it was 18.8. This year it will be somewhere near 18.8; my prediction would be slightly less than that.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C): As the ratio in 1970 was 22.7 has there been a massive increase in education standards since then? If not, why not revert to 22.7 and save £400m of public money?

Mr Carlisle: No. If we look at any prediction over the years we would find, on most measurable circumstances you can take, that there has been a continuing, gradual improvement, particularly effected by raising the school leaving age which occurred before the date he mentioned.

I am not saying the pupil-teacher ratio is the only thing that matters, but I am entitled to say, in view of continual Labour criticism, that we should keep restrictions on financial spending in perspective in what is happening in the schools.

Mr Neil Kinnock, chief Opposition spokesman on education (Bedwellty, Lab): Putting these restrictions into perspective, does he think the favourable trend of pupil-teacher ratios will be maintained when the school population falls by an estimated 13 per cent and the number of teachers falls by an estimated 12 per cent? To use his own words at the end of last year, that will reduce the quality of education.

Or does he acknowledge that, in the words of the Senior Chief Inspector of schools, Miss Sheila Brown, it will be a miracle if the curriculum remains unscathed?

It is time he stopped talking about the prospect of maintaining the quality and standards of education while cutting the standard of school provision.

Mr Carlisle: If he wishes to quote Miss Brown he should do it correctly. She did not use those words he put into her mouth.

On the pupil-teacher ratio, while I still have to have further talks with the local authority associations on the 1980-81 figure, I would expect it to be very much the same as I announced.

Mr Kinnock: I understand she actually said "It will be a miracle if we can maintain the level of curriculum". If that is so, is she not an authoritative and effective observer?

Mr Carlisle: Of course I do, and I rely strongly on her advice. I think the words she used were that it would be a miracle if there were not changes in the curriculum in some schools.

Bill seeks to reduce public sector dominance of transport: points system for driving offences

The Transport Bill contained important reforms and reduced once again the public sector domination of the transport industries, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, said when he moved the second reading of the Bill. The process of taking the state out of bodies where it had no role had begun with the Government's 1980 Transport Act.

The Bill had two major themes. The first was the introduction of private capital into state owned industries. The Government saw no advantage to the public either as taxpayer or consumer in keeping businesses in the public sector when they could do better outside with access to private capital and freedom from controls and government interference.

The second theme was to do with the reform of motoring laws and provision of road safety. The changes represented some of the most important reforms since the 1960s.

Part I of the Bill made possible a fundamental change in the status of the subsidiary companies of British Rail. The Government and the board had identified four businesses in which there were immediate prospects for the introduction of private capital—Sealink, Hovercraft, hotels and non-operational property assets.

British Rail's subsidy companies had suffered rather than benefited from being part of the public sector. They had been subject to public sector constraints. They had, until recently, lacked management attention and most of all they had lacked investment. Successive boards had taken the view that with limited resources they had to give priority to the railways.

The only answer was the introduction of private capital into the businesses. The proposals in the Bill had the full support of the British Railways Board. Using their existing powers, the board had already set up a holding company, British Rail Investments Ltd. The holding company had the freedom to find the best solution to each business. But if the businesses were to escape public sector constraints the board must surrender control of the businesses.

The board and the Government were convinced of the need of the provisions in the Bill. Unless they took this kind of radical action now the future of these businesses would be bleak.

Part II of the Bill dealt with the future of the British Transport Docks Board. The board operated 19 ports including some major ones like Southampton, Hull and Immingham. They were responsible for handling about a quarter of the country's sea borne trade.

The advantage of the course proposed in the Bill was that it would give full commercial freedom to the board. The board would no longer be subject to intervention and interference from the Government, and the management and workforce would be responsible for their own future without Government controls over investment.

The proposals recognized that there was no need for the Docks Board to remain in the public sector under the restrictions and the threat of restrictions which that involved. The proposals replaced the Docks Board with a new two-tier organization. Investors would be invited to buy shares in a Companies Act holding company which would control the reconstituted Docks Board and be known as British Ports, as if it were a wholly owned subsidiary.

The British Transport Docks Board was a successful organization which derived its success from a mixture of a strong management team and generally sound industrial relations, and board members would be able to build on that success in the private sector.

The Government intended to take a 51 per cent shareholding in the holding company. The crucial point about this was not the percentage size but whether it was used to control the holding company. The Government would not be controlling the holding company. The Government wanted to see employee shareholding schemes established so that those who worked in the business would have a commitment and a stake in its future success.

This was a far more tangible way of involving employees in their industries than operating the outdated belief that nationalization gave employees greater control or greater security of employment.

Part III was concerned mainly with the abolition of the National Ports Council. This had had achievements, but the Government had come to the conclusion that greater responsibility for practices in the ports should now be placed on the port industry itself.

Part IV dealt with the second main theme of the Bill—the reform of road safety and traffic law.

At present, the motorist who committed three endorsable offences within three years was liable for disqualification for at least six months. The trouble was that this system did not distinguish between offences.

This had always seemed an entirely illogical position.

While in Opposition (he said) I looked at the systems in operation in West Germany and New York. As a result, I am convinced that our position in Britain should be similarly improved.

A points system was not only practicable, but had real benefits—above all that the motorists and professional drivers regarded such a change as being fair and both the major motoring organizations had generally welcomed the proposals.

Each of the current endorsable offences should be graded according to the number of points. When 12 points had been accumulated within a three-year period, disqualification would always follow.

There would be different views about the points value of different offences and the Government would be prepared to listen to arguments on that. It was hoped that MPs would feel that the new system would be more equitable than the present one.

Once the period of disqualification had been served, the slate would be wiped clean of points.

The second major provision of this part of the Bill was to tackle the problem of drink-driving. No-one could be in any doubt or illusion about the seriousness of this. About one-third of drivers killed in accidents had been above the prescribed limit. More than one half of those convicted in the courts today had readings of over 150mg. Three-quarters of those convicted were over 120mg.

Some would argue for stiffer sentences, but he did not think they were necessary. The courts already had considerable powers. The crucial question concerned the enforcement of the law. The Government had taken steps to enable enforcement to be more efficient than it was at present.

The Bill provided for evidential breath tests — breath testing machines at police stations—which would largely replace the need for analyses of blood and urine samples. Loopholes in the existing law had meant that guilty drivers had escaped on procedural technicalities. This had had its effect on the police who could not be expected to enforce a deficient law.

The Government believed the changes it was making would help the police carry out their job of enforcement. It did not believe that powers to introduce random or discretionary tests were necessary.

Relations between the police and motorists were an important part of police-public relations and the introduction of a power of this kind would potentially damage them. The House should think long and carefully before allowing such powers.

The Bill also concerned the problem of road safety and motor-cyclists. In 1979 over 1,100 motor cyclists died on the roads—over half of them teenagers—and a further 66,000 were injured.

The Government's information was that the figures for last year would run at about the same level. Any government must be concerned about casualties of that size and the Bill's proposals were aimed at enabling the motor cyclist, particularly the new motor cyclist, to be equipped to take better care of his own safety.

Per mile travelled, the motor cyclist was 30 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured than the car driver. The young and inexperienced were the most vulnerable.

It was essential as a matter of policy that more riders should take training and follow that up with the driving test. It was wrong that a learner should be able to ride a modern 250 cc machine. The Bill restricted learner drivers to less powerful machines with a performance more appropriate to the general level of their experience and skill, and provide for a two-part test for motor-cyclists.

The Government was in no way seeking to discriminate against motor-cyclists but above all to ensure that the new rider took training as he came on to the road for the first time.

The measures in the Bill would return the control of a significant part of British transport to private hands and the role of the state would be significantly reduced. The Bill set free these industries and gave them the opportunities and challenge of the private sector. At the same time it made some of the most important changes in motoring law and road safety the House had had before it since the 1960s.

Worst time to sell British Rail subsidiaries

Mr Albert Booth, chief Opposition spokesman on transport (Barrow-in-Furness, Lab), said the Bill brought to bear on British Railways provisions which were at best irrelevant to the massive financial crisis facing it and at worst downright damaging to its future.

The minister proposed to take powers to force British Railways to sell its profitable subsidiaries. The Opposition would be opposed to a forced sale of those subsidiaries at any time.

It was hard to envisage a worse time than the present unless one was seeking, as the Government apparently was, to find a time when the subsidiaries could be sold as cheaply as possible.

If the Secretary of State intended that the money realized from the sale should be further invested in the subsidiaries, the benefit would accrue to those who acquired subsidiaries. It would only accrue to British Railways to the limited extent that it retained any holdings in those subsidiaries.

British Rail was starved of cash for track maintenance, development of signalling systems and rolling stock. It was in danger of having to introduce further speed restrictions and to have more line closures unless it could get more money for its main business.

If the Bill were operated as he thought it would be, a future Labour government would not only have to find ways quickly to reassert public control over national assets in transport which had been stripped by this Government, but would have to formulate policies to allow public enterprises to flourish, to provide services, to generate demand and employment without being hamstrung.

If a Conservative Government believed it was justified in calling upon its majority in Parliament to give it powers to strip public assets and transfer them from the public to the private sector and to remove ownership in a way which disadvantaged the public interest and advantaged private interests, a future Labour Government might well feel justified in calling upon its majority to reverse the process.

On the pension schemes and the compensation payments to members of the Docks Council and their staff who would be made redundant, the Opposition objected to a large part of the cost being met by a levy on the industry. These costs arose directly from Government action, and should be covered by Government.

It was wrong to include road safety in the Bill. They were important, but should have been introduced in a separate Bill as they made a lot of sense and could have been discussed in a better atmosphere.

This Bill contained highly controversial party political material when none of the parties wanted to be branded as being against road safety or pro drunken drivers.

He was surprised at Mr Fowler's proposals on the hip flask problem when testing suspected drunken drivers. No one should be able to evade a charge of having committed a crime by being able to prove his test was affected by the fact he took a swig from a hip flask after being called upon to be tested. In other areas it was an offence to disturb or destroy evidence, and the same philosophy should be applied to road safety.

The Bill contained much that was controversial, little that was good and created, in its first part, the means of destroying an important part of British Rail.

Labour MPs would be voting against the Bill and calling upon all those who believed in maintaining and developing Britain's railway system to support them.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C) said on road safety, MPs should realize that what was proposed in the Bill were the minimum standards required and everything should be done to encourage motorists and motor-cyclists to take further advanced tests so that the standard generally was increased. The proposals should make sure that people did not go on driving for ever on a provisional licence on highly powerful machines. That was the right sort of change.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UU) said there was no justification for equating the movement of the percentages disclosed during the four years after the passing of the 1967 Act with a fall in road casualties caused by alcohol in the blood of drivers.

The probabilities were on balance against that interpretation. Not enough had been done to interpret and understand the experience in the past 13 years. The House had not sufficiently debated that experience or its implications.

There should be a far deeper and thoroughgoing investigation of the consequences, if any, of the 1967 Act before they allowed that legislation for many more years to remain upon the statute book.

Those in work should help unemployed

House of Lords

The Social Security (Contributions) Bill was an important measure which had significant effects for the economy in general and for the National Health Service and National Insurance contributors, Lady Young, Minister of State for Education and Science, said when moving the Bill's second reading.

She said the Government was committed to reducing inflation by restraining the growth of the public sector borrowing requirement. The effect of the changes in the Bill would be to raise extra revenue which would enable the PSBR to be reduced in 1981-82 by £1,000m.

The Bill had three objectives. First, by reducing the Treasury supplement paid from taxation into the National Insurance fund, the Bill would help to correct the imbalance that had occurred since 1975. Over the last five years the payment from general taxation towards social security had grown considerably in real terms and there was an undeniable need to adjust the balance.

Secondly, the Bill restored the proportion of the National Health Service expenditure financed from contributions to what it was as recently as 1976-77.

Thirdly, employers should not be asked to pay contributions at a higher rate in 1981-82.

In effect it would mean that those in work would be called upon to shoulder an increased part of the burden of providing for those who were not in work.

Overall, the Bill brought the National Insurance fund into balance, enabling the proper growth of benefits over the coming year.

Lord Wells-Pestell (Lab), for the Opposition, said the Bill was a further example of the Government's intention to limit the PSBR, no matter who suffered in the process.

The difficulty which faces us (he said) is when is the Government going to get the PSBR under control? It seems quite clear that the Government is in absolute chaos and confusion in this matter.

There had been four forecasts by the Government in the space of a few months revising what the PSBR would be during 1980/1.

Did they know what they were doing? This exercised their minds more than anything else. They seemed to be stumbling forward into the dark, and into greater darkness.

If the Government was concerned about those on low pay it would have made more sense if it had lifted the ceiling on the contributions on employees earning over £200 a week. That would have brought in a great deal more money from a section of the community receiving an annual income in excess of £10,000 a year.

The Bill imposed a serious burden on the low-paid workers. There was a hidden surcharge—a form of direct taxation—upon the lower paid. It meant a substantial increase in national insurance contributions for them. Those on £27 or £28 a week would pay national insurance contributions on every penny they earned.

The Government had placed too great a burden on the lower paid and not enough on the higher paid.

Lord Banks (L) said that the Government argued, in effect, that contributors must contribute towards non-contributory benefits. That was utterly wrong. What the various parties contributed should relate to their benefits. If it was right that contributions should be increased on the scale and for the purpose proposed by the Government—and he questioned that—should the burden be put entirely on the personal contributors rather than on the corporate?

Surely the way to help was by reducing the national insurance surcharge rather than by altering the balance of contribution between employers and the rest within the national insurance fund.

The Liberals had voted in the Commons against this Bill, but would not oppose its second reading in the Lords, although they did not accept many of the arguments advanced in its favour.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said the Bill clearly indicated a victory for the Treasury over the Department of Health and Social Security. The PSBR would be substantially reduced as a result of the Bill, but it should be remembered that the cut in the PSBR was not being achieved by cuts in expenditure but by transferring the method of raising funds from one form of tax to another.

A tax on employment was the craziest tax of all. It would increase the cost of goods and prove a substantial disincentive to employers to take on more employees.

The Bill was clearly a trailer for the Budget. The changes were not to operate until the forthcoming financial year and therefore it would be possible for the Chancellor to make compensating adjustments to personal and company taxation which could have the effect of compensating for the additional burdens which the Bill sought to impose.

Lady Gaitskell (Lab) said she found it difficult to understand the Bill but to call it a social security Bill was a misnomer. It should be called the Social Insecurity (Contributions) Bill. It was a nasty Bill.

Lord Spens (Ind) said the self employed were being made to pay an extra amount of tax at a time when the Government was trying to encourage small businesses to expand in order to take on more people.

Lord Cockfield, Minister of State, Treasury, said that when looking for additional revenue, national insurance contributions were an appropriate source.

Earnings in the last 12 months had increased by more than 20 per cent, compared with an increase in prices of 15 per cent. That was why employees had enjoyed an increase in real incomes at a time when other members of the community might be suffering from considerable hardship.

It was only right in those circumstances that those in employment made an extra contribution to the additional public expenditure being incurred. It was also right that the Government should have decided not to increase the rates of contribution paid by industry.

To the extent that the rates of contribution payable by employers had not been increased, that represented a valuable measure of assistance to industry in relation to what would have been the normal payment. Industry had been relieved of a burden which normally would have fallen on its shoulders.

It was true that the total contribution by employers, including the surcharge, would increase in cash terms next year. That increase would be less than £1,000m.

The figure reflected the expected rise in earnings and also the increase in the ceiling of the graduated contribution from £165 to £200 a week. Both factors were a reflection of the level of prices and earnings.

The size of the cash increase paid by employers next year was likely to reflect a decline in contributions in real terms. To remove the limit for contributions only would mean breaking the present link between contributions and benefits and would be a major departure from the arrangements agreed in 1975.

The Bill was read a second time.
House adjourned 4.54 pm.

Nevada exercise

British observers will be present at the exercise in Nevada in April on nuclear weapons accident safety, Viscount Trenchard, Minister of State for Defence, said.

Chance for access to capital investment

Sir Bernard Braine (South East Essex, C), chairman of the National Council on Alcoholism, said he must warn the Government that the measures itr was seeking on drinking and driving would soon lose their impact if the consumption of alcohol was allowed to get out of hand. Any decrease in the national consumption of alcohol would help to reduce the carnage on the roads.

There was no escape for the Govermmnt from the need to strengthen the licensinf laws, heighetn public awareness of the danger of abuse, and to curb irresponsible advertising.

Lowering the legal limit from 80 to 50 milligrams and dealing with high risk offenders would have beneficial results for safety on the roads and would save lives.

Mr David Ennals (Norwich, North, Lab) said it was extraordinary that the Secretary of State had not taken the opportunity of this Bill to make provision for the compulsory wearing of seat belts. The case for wearing them was overwhelming.

Mr Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight, L) said he had mixed feelings about the Bill. He saw no reason in principle why private money should not be sought by British Rail and other nationalized bodies. But he had fears about what the result might be for Sealink. If it was put on the open market, the Government's intentions would need clarifying. Could Sealink be split up.

Sir Ronald Bell (Beaconsfield, C) said the totting-up procedure leading to disqualification was bad. It was capricious in its effect, and did not distinguish between the gravity of individual offences which added up to disqualification.

Mr Walter Johnson (Derby, South, Lab) said he was diametrically opposed to denationalization by the back door, which the Bill would allow. A change of Government would see that nationalized industries which had been turned over to the private sector should be renationalized without compensation.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington, C) said Mr Fowler was in danger of being remembered as the minister who did not deal with seat belts and did not grasp the nettle of drinking and driving.

Mr Richard Mitchell (Southampton, Itchen, Lab) said Mr Fowler had admitted that the British Transport Docks Board was a success story. When something was working well, why fiddle with it and mess it about?

Mr Frank Dobson (Camden, Holborn and St Pancras, South, Lab) said ideology and general spleen against nationalized industries was the main motivation behind the Bill. It was a retrograde step in the Government's policy

Mr Timothy Brinton (Gravesend, C) said he did not support the drunken driver, but MPs had merely tinkered with the problem since 1967. The only way to stop the criminal act of driving with excess alcohol was severer punishment, because it was the only thing the sort of people they were talking about would understand.

Mr John Prescott, an Opposition spokesman on transport (Kingston upon Hull, East, Lab) said this was a dash to the market place to sell off the nationalized industry sector. Mr Fowler could not stand aside from intervention in port policy. It was not possible to get rid of these assets and assume he would not be involved in the development of port policy.

The British Transport Docks Board was a sound organization which had done well. Labour MPs rejected the view that the taxpayer should not benefit from all the investment put in, or that th national interest could be considered the same as the private interest.

If the minister gave the amount of money to BR as other European and American Governments gave to their rail systems, there would be no need to be selling off subsidiaries in order to raise cash.

He warned people who bought shares in the British Rail subsidiaries that they would not benefit by their action. As soon as they were returned to power Labour would take whatever means they could, quickly, to regain control of these sectors. (Labour cheers.)

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport (Rushcliffe, C) said the Government was treating the problems of the nationalized industries in a pragmatic and reasonable way, looking to the different circumstances of each industry.

It was trying to give these industries, which had been neglected for some years, a proper opportunity for access to capital investment for sound commercial projects in their areas.

There would be a need for hard discussions between ministers and British Rail on the implementation of the policy. They wanted to reach practical solutions to practical problems in businesses which the last Government neglected over years.

It was important that the ordinary motorist was not badgered with too many unnecessary regulations so that he became resentful of police powers in the traffic area. On the other hand every responsible driver accepted the need for necessary rules to keep down casualties.

The move to wind up the National Ports Council had been welcomed by the ports industry, contrary to claims by the Opposition. It was not only the private sector, but most of the public ports which were in the forefront of those applauding this move and saying that the time had come to divide up the Council's functions.

The Bill was read a second time by 312 votes to 235—Government majority, 77.

Indefatigable worker for European progress

European Parliament
Strasbourg

News of the sudden death in Strasbourg of Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for agriculture and fisheries, was given to the Parliament by Madame Simone Veil, the president.

She said Parliament would be overwhelmed at the loss of Mr Gundelach and MEPs would find it difficult to express the deep emotions they felt.

Mr Gundelach (she said) was born in April, 1925, and after brilliant studies in economic sciences he served in the Danish foreign ministry where he excelled through his great professional abilities and his human characteristics.

He was head of the Danish mission to the EEC and took an active part in the accession of the Danes before becoming a Commissioner in 1973. Throughout all those years he had been an indefatigable worker for European progress and justice. He had devoted his life to that end and sadly he had killed himself in the task.

On behalf of the European Parliament (she said) I extend to his family, to the Danish people, to our Danish colleagues and to the Commission our feelings of profound sadness and our assurance that we fully associate ourselves in their loss.

Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission, said the Commission was overwhelmed by Mr Gundelach's death and joined in the condolences to his family. The loss for the Community, Europe and Denmark could not be measured at a time when the Community was trying to find solutions to such serious problems. Mr Gundelach's devotion was absolute and he threw himself into his task indefatigably.

After members had stood for a minute's silence Sir Henry Plumb, chairman of Parliament's committee on agriculture, expressed the sadness of its members. No one had known better than they, he said, the total dedication of Mr Gundelach to the cause of agriculture in the Community.

Only this morning they would have been in discussion with Mr Gundelach on his report on proposed improvements in the CAP and now, sadly, they were denied that opportunity.

Mr Poul Moller (Denmark, ED) said it was a terrible blow for all Danish MEPs. Mr Gundelach was one of the most gifted of men and highly esteemed in Denmark which was proud that he had been given such an important task as co-ordinating agricultural policy.

EEC car makers need overall strategy

The Japanese were intent on conquering the world car industry in the way they had conquered the world motor cycle industry, M Gilles Martinet (France, Soc) said when a debate on the European car industry, adjourned from the last session, was resumed.

He said that the idea that if the Japanese were to relax their own trade barriers and allow in more European cars, this would ease the situation was a delusion, a childish dream. They would not change Japanese trade practices and Europe would continue to produce cars 25 to 30 per cent dearer than Japanese cars.

They must stop the Japanese offensive but they could only do that it they proved to them that Europe was prepared to take temporary protectionist measures. They must end the egotistical behaviour of some firms and governments. There was no French, German, Italian or Belgian solution to the problem; they needed a European solution.

The debate was based on a report from the Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calling for a Community strategy for the car industry enabling it to take advantage of the size of the Community market, its economic and political strength, and its extensive trading links with the rest of the world.

It called for measures to increase the productivity of the European car industry and strengthen its competitiveness.

The committee said that taking an overall view the best course would be for the Japanese to limit exports to the Community but at present the long term effectiveness of that approach must be open to question. If positive results were not achieved appropriate temporary decisions must be taken to face up to the situation.

A proposal currently under study could provide a useful tool in talks to open up the Japanese market through the removal of barriers. At present the imbalance between Japanese car exports to the EEC and EEC exports to Japan was at the rate of 50 to one and could be as much as 80 to one this year.

Herr Ernst Muller-Hermann (West Germany, EPP) said it was unreasonable for firms who made good profits in good years to expect the state to carry the responsibility in bad years. The European car industry had a number of excellent years up to 1979 but some companies had rested on their laurels and failed to take steps to adjust to market changes and energy problems.

European companies should become more active in the Japanese market. A comprehensive Community effort to improve productivity was needed. Protectionism was not the answer.

Miss Norvela Forster (Birmingham South, ED) said it was in the interests of the Community and Japan that trade should be as free as possible. Quotas were only to be used as a last resort if voluntary arrangements broke down.

The Community should act as one. She suggested the Japanese should limit themselves to not more than 9 per cent of the EEC market. At present Italy had a voluntary agreement which meant that Japanese exports were negligible and the French had an arrangement whereby Japanese exports were limited to 3 per cent of the home market. She hoped France and Italy would act jointly with other member states.

Miss Ann Clywd (Mid and West Wales, Soc) said if the European Commission failed to take action to protect the jobs of workers in the car industry, the trade unions in the countries affected would themselves take action against imports.

With almost three million unemployed, trade unions in the United Kingdom felt the flood of car imports must be stemmed. Short-term selective import controls were needed to create a breathing space during which the industries could reequip and reorganize.

Herr Karl-Heinz Narjes, EEC Commissioner for Advanced Technology, said the car industry was confronted with a major challenge and the European reaction had been slow. In addition to the Japanese onslaught, there was a world-wide slump in demand and rising oil prices.

But the Community had to trade and wanted to expand its world wide trade. Those who called for protectionist measures as a solution would soon see new difficulties elsewhere.

Permanent protectionism would have the same effect as a drug. At first it would seem plausible and tolerable but in the long run it would mean the squandering of precious resources.

A more cohesive European policy was needed. This could prepare the ground for improvements in the situation facing the European industry.

Viscount Etienne Davignon, Commissioner for Industry, said the European car industry needed a dynamic overall strategy. The Community wanted a fair balance in its trade with other countries. The Community's car industry needed third country markets as much as any other country for it was there that the battle would be won or lost.

The report was approved.

More schools added to assisted places scheme

Since the list of schools being invited to join the assisted places scheme was published on October 6, eight schools had declined the offer and 11 schools had been added to the list, Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under Secretary for Education and Science, said in reply to a question by Mr John Butcher (Coventry, South West, C).

Mr Butcher: Can the minister indicate what progress has been made in signing up the schools and whether parents are now applying for entry for their children in 1980-81?

Mr Boyson (Brent, North, C): something like 37 schools have signed. We expect a total of 221 schools to be involved. In October a list was published of which schools were coming in; we will be publishing an amended list shortly.

Mr Neil Kinnock, chief Opposition spokesman on education (Bedwellty, Lab): Why is there no cash limit on the amount of money available to the schools in the assisted places scheme in England and Wales?

Mr Boyson: The cash limit is £3m to involve 5,500 children, 950 at sixth form level. The costs of the assisted places scheme are lower than the costs of state education.

In reply to a further question by Mr Kinnock about the cash limit, Mr Boyson said: On the independent sector it is a continuous one—the ability of parents to pay.

Curriculum

The next Government statement on the school curriculum would be published within a few weeks, Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under Secretary for Education and Science, said during question time.

Education report

Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under Secretary for Education and Science (Sutton and Cheam, C), said in reply to a question that the results of the review he had been chairing into education provision for the 16 to 19-year-olds would be published on January 26.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Rate support grant orders for England and for Wales.

House of Lords

Today at 2.30: Debate on International Year of the Disabled. Bill of Rights Bill, committee.

Social Focus

School records: the crucial question of how much parents have a right to know

Parents' rights are the very essence of present Conservative education philosophy. With choice and information, the argument goes, parents can force change by insisting on where, what and how their children are taught.

The theory has its limits, as the Tories would be the first to admit, if only because choice depends on where people live and how much money they have. But how far has the Government gone in giving parents the right to know how their children are doing at school and what teachers think of them? The answer must be not that far if one takes as an acid test its policy on parents being able to see school records held on their children.

What the Department of Education and Science has done is all right, as far as it goes, and has even led some DES-watchers to think more might come later. The signs are now that these people are going to be disappointed.

The Government is believed to have no intention of giving parents the right to see school records, or to suggest to local authorities that they bestow such a right. Local councils have been told to give parents more in the way of information about schools, for example, about the curriculum and the number of exam passes; parents have been given much more effective choice between schools with the right of appeal against an allocation; governing bodies have been reformed to include a wider spectrum of representation, including parents, and parents of handicapped children are to be given the right to see the official local authority record which determines whether their child goes to a special school

But parents of children in ordinary schools are not likely to be given this privilege. The reason seems to be that it would cause too many problems: teachers and local authorities would hate it because it would mean reorganizing their record systems, perhaps spending some money and being more circumspect in what they wrote down.

It would mean that teachers would have to keep proper records, something that cannot be assumed at present. And it would probably mean the introduction of a standard record card in all local authorities and a decision about whether parents could see all or only some information on the school record.

It would, in other words, stir up a hornet's nest of debate at present left relatively undisturbed. Clamour for reform has come predictably from the Advisory Centre for Information (ACE) and the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL) who have drawn heavily on the American experience for their case. In the United States parents, and students over 16, have a statutory right to see school records under an Act, colloquially known as the Buckley Amendment, which came into force in 1977.

The argument in favour of access is based ultimately on a democratic principle. that people should have the right to see what is written down about them or their children, and that those in authority should be accountable for their deeds and judgments.

It is fuelled by cases of abuse, where information is recorded which is gossipy, irrelevant or downright wrong. And it is reinforced by the pragmatic argument that a right of access would produce records which are a good deal more accurate, if less informative, than they are now.

The suggestion that the Government might be about to act is not based on wishful thinking but on new powers it gave itself under the Education Act (Number 2), passed last year. A regulation which had existed under a local government act, now repealed, was expanded to enable the DES to regulate not only the transfer record between schools but the whole question of the keeping and disclosure of education records.

In the debate in the House of Lords on this Lord Bellwin, Under Secretary at the Department of the Environment, said: "The Government believes that there should be a large degree of openness between schools and parents."

Since then the Education Secretary has written to the NCCL to say the new regulation will be issued by April 1981. He did not say what it would contain but it is believed it will cover only the transfer record and not the other aspects of record keeping. So much for Lord Bellwin's fine statement.

Pressure groups will now be marshalling their forces for renewed lobbying. "It is vital that parents should have a right of access to records held on their children", says Patricia Hewitt, general secretary of the NCCL. "Many of them have suffered considerable anxiety because of what they fear is in their child's record."

Peter Newell of ACE said it did not require legislation but a political will to change things. "We were obviously encouraged by the Government's commitment to providing more information to parents but we regard school records as the central issue and to deny access to them makes a nonsense of their claim to open up schools to parents."

Lucy Hodges

Out in the Open, The School Records Debate, by Lucy Hodges, a book on parents' access to school records, will be published by Chameleon in the spring.

Why the Home Office policy towards young offenders is so sadly out of date

It is now more than 10 years since the Home Secretary of the day asked the Advisory Council on the Penal System to carry out a thoroughgoing review of the treatment of young offenders aged 17 and over. In 1974, after four years of the first independent review of the Borstal system, proudly established at the turn of the nineteenth century, the Council reported; the principal theme of its report was the need for a shift in emphasis, and therefore in deployment of resources, from custodial measures to treatment in the community. Far too many youngsters were needlessly being sent to detention centres (established in 1948) and Borstals; many others who justifiably were sent inside were not receiving prompt or adequate supervision on their release.

The Council made two main recomendations for effecting the desired change. First, it recommended a new sentence of custody and control, with an emphasis on early release to supervision in the community. The replacement of the three current custodial sentences for the 17-21 year olds—detention centre, Borstal and imprisonment—in one single sentence of determinate length, was universally welcomed. The second proposal, a new non-custodial sentence of supervision and control, designed to give the supervising probation service stronger and more flexible measures of control over individual offenders, fared much less well in the ensuing climate of public debate and of acute financial stringency. The more radical, social-work orientated members of the Probation and After-Care Service jibbed at the concept of "control"; and the cut-back in public expenditure in the mid-1970s, which has persisted even more fiercely in the past two or three years, meant that for the time being at least the recommendation was shelved.

Little or nothing emanating from the Home Office suggests that there are immediate prospects for legislative action in that part of the system. That is not to say that existing non-custodial sanctions —probation pure and simple, community service and fines—should not be used even more extensively than in the immediate past. Far from it: the probation service has been encouraged to do more in the knowledge that the service is to be modestly expanded in the 1980s.

But the move towards a generic sentence of youth custody and supervision was taken a step nearer fruition, somewhat tardily, by the publication of a Government Green Paper in the autumn of 1978, which followed in general the proposals made by the Advisory Council on the Penal System; only some of the details of early release and supervision on release varied from the Council's proposals.

Last October the new Government prescribed its own brand of "proposals for strengthening the law relating to young offenders"; and legislation is promised at an early date, in a White Paper, *Young Offenders*.

Not merely do the new proposals on custody for young offenders depart significantly and unhelpfully from the earlier, agreed suggestions; the Government, in formulating its legislative plan, seems wholly to misunderstand the nature of the offenders for whom it is prescribing penal treatment; it fails lamentably to acknowledge that what goes on in the institutions for young adult offenders, detention centres in particular, has for some time been irrelevant to the needs for this age group of offenders. The Government's proposals simply perpetuate, and even accentuate the old formulae which by common consent have palpably failed to cope with the pressing social problem of crime committed by young adolescents in increasing numbers and in depressingly more serious ways.

The White Paper of last year prefaces its custodial proposals by making due obeisance in the direction of non-custodial measures. It says that the Government attaches the greatest importance to the use in appropriate circumstances of other penalties than custody; it adds that "it is doing as much as possible to encourage the development of non-custodial facilities".

The report deliberately ignores the essential point made by the Advisory Council on the Penal System, which was disgracefully disbanded last year in the absurd move to axe yet another "quango", however valuable and inexpensive. Or was it that this Government, unlike *all* its predecessors since the war, does not take kindly to independent advice on penal affairs from a wide range of experts?

The anodyne support in the White Paper for non-custodial measures is in fact no more than a sop to those advocating greater use of treatment within the community, for there is no governmental commitment whatsoever in the White Paper for a conscious shift in resources from custodial provision to non-custodial treatment. Quite the contrary, there is, unashamedly, a deliberate commitment of additional financial resources to bricks and mortar.

The more penologically regressive proposal is the one that preserves the detention centre order, while merging the sentence of Borstal training and imprisonment into a Youth Custody Order. The White Paper blandly asserts that the "differences between detention centres, Borstals and prisons housing young offenders are too great for it to be proper to regard them as catering for a simple, undifferentiated 'generic' sentence".

This is a cynical disregard of the unanimous opinion, both within the prison department of the Home Office and among the *cognoscenti* on penal affairs, that there is no essential difference in the regimes of all three institutions; the only difference (and not very great at that as between detention centre and Borstal) is in time actually spent by inmates at the three types of institutions. In short detention centres were widely regarded as "mini Borstals". The sole reason for wishing to preserve the separate detention centre order is so that the Government can fulfil its "law-and-order" policy and indulge in reintroducing the "short, sharp shock" philosophy "experimentally" in a few detention centres.

Home Office Ministers have not disguised the fact that they do not know whether such a militaristic style of penal establishment will work; they concede that their aim is to try it out. They ignore totally an earlier (1970) report of a subcommittee of the Advisory Council on the Penal System, under the chairmanship of the previous Bishop of Exeter (Dr R. C. Mortimer), that consigned the "short, sharp shock" approach, which accompanied the setting up of the detention centres in the 1950s and 1960s, to the penal history museum. That sub-committee noted that the alliterative phrase in its Gilbertian source referred to decapitation:

"To sit in solemn silence in a dull, dark dock,
In a pestilential prison, with a life-long lock,
Awaiting the sensation of a short, sharp shock,
From a cheap and chippy chopper on a big, black block!"
(The Mikado)

It deprecated the concept, which by the late 1960s had virtually disappeared from all detention centres mainly because the staffs of detention centres, to their unrecognized credit, disliked intensely being punitive agents 24 hours a day; their professionalism argued forcibly against such a negative penal policy. It concluded that the sudden deprivation of liberty is by itself quite sufficient a shock; and that the regime of the institutions should be devoted to positive educational (in the widest sense) activities. All this apparently counts for nought in the eyes of Mr William Whitelaw and his political colleagues at the Home Office.

The irrelevancy of the Government's proposals is self-evident. Of all the age-groups of offenders—be they juveniles under 17 or adults over 21—those between 17 and 21 demonstrate statistically the closest correlation between crime and a single, social class. The archetypal young adult offender is a recent school-leaver from a housing estate or an inner city dwelling who is in Class V of the Registrar-General's classification, i.e. he is unskilled.

Eighty per cent of all offenders in this age group conform to that description. All other age-groups of offenders display statistically a much wider spread of social class.

Two things about this statistical fact stand out like a sore thumb. Young adult offenders are predominantly drawn from the disprivileged in our society and have the least hope of escaping the inevitable consequences of their disprivileged status. The fact is that not merely are so many of them unemployed; they are virtually unemployable. No longer are there the big industrial enterprises that can mop up large amounts of unskilled labour. And the picture of growing unemployment for school-leavers hardly assists. Thus the candidates for penal treatment now are quite unlike those of previous generations for whom extant penal policy was prescribed.

The working-class boys who formed the bulk of the Borstal inmates until the 1950s knew their place in life as that of the unpretentious working-class adult who knew and accepted his station in society—that was, service in a relatively menial occupation. There was, correspondingly, little uncertainty among Borstal officers about the applicable social values.

The Borstal philosophy prized hard work, thrift, deference to authority, fair play, corporate spirit, a simple patriotism and military standards of deportment, cleanliness and tidiness (as being next to godliness). In short, traditional Christian values, as interpreted by the governing middle class, went unquestioned.

We live today in a very different social climate. There is no single, all-embracing system of values that has unquestioned dominance; no clear authoritative guide to social behaviour exists. Different views of morality in a pluralist society compete with each other; the young person has to decide not merely whether to conform but which morality should act as his guide. For those not especially well-equipped to make decisions for themselves, the promptings and influence of their peers are more likely to be copied, often not for the best.

In our society, we are all bombarded by propaganda which constantly hammers home the philosophy that status and happiness depend upon material possessions. The youngsters with whom society has to cope have the poorest prospects of acquiring these possessions through legitimate outlets. In the result they tend to grab what they cannot attain by socially acceptable means. Their frustration is manifest in their resort to violence, both as an outlet for aggressive attitudes towards a society that can be seen as having failed to satisfy their natural aspirations and as an attempt to snatch at a social significance otherwise denied to them.

It is a recognition of these stark social factors, and not a whimsical desire for the "good old days", when delinquent youth responded more readily to the simpler penal reactions of society, that must dictate policy today. The Government's White Paper is hopelessly and misguidely a prescription, at best, relevant to a day and age that has gone and will not return. At worst it is in danger of exacerbating the anti-authoritarian attitudes of our young, the result of which will be more crime and less hope of stemming the tide of total alienation of the youth of this country.

Louis Blom-Cooper

The author is Chairman of the Howard League for Penal Reform and was a member of the Advisory Council on the Penal System since its establishment in 1966. (His views are personal and do not necessarily reflect those of any of his former colleagues on the Council.)

also on pages 10 and 16



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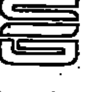
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Resilience of an operatic 'Romeo'

"One of the incurable delusions of the musical world", wrote Ernest Newman, "is that *Romeo and Juliet* is ideal material for an opera". Easy to be deluded, though, with the pair of lovers, neatly silhouetted against their feuding families, the ready-made duets, ensembles and choruses, the masked ball and the fencing, the balcony and the bedroom, the potion and the double suicide. At least seven operas on the subject were highly successful in their own day; yet, with one exception, it has been only the non-operatic *Romeo and Juliets* of Berlioz, Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev that have stood the test of time.

That exception is Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, which, like *Faust*, arrived at the Paris Opéra by way of a première at the Paris Théâtre Lyrique in 1867, since when it has never long been out of the repertory in France. But it has never been performed in Germany and has rarely been heard of in Italy since the days of Gigli. England, too, has had little chance to prove Newman right or wrong. When *Romeo and Juliet* opens tonight at the London Coliseum in a new production by the English National Opera, it will be the first performance of Gounod's work in this country for half a century.

The 1930 Covent Garden production was conducted by *Sir John Barbirolli with Edith* Mason as Juliet; English National Opera have found themselves the nice combination of a French conductor in Louis Frémaux, renowned for his work in opera at Monte Carlo and for his Welsh National *Pearl Fishers*, and a thoroughly English Juliet in Valerie Masterson, who, appropriately enough, seems to belong as much to France and French opera these days as she does to England.

From their experience of studying the work itself, neither M Frémaux nor Miss Masterson can think why Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet* has been absent so long. M Frémaux feels that the French repertoire as a whole has *tended to be overlooked*, but, after successful revivals of *Werther* and *Manon* in the Seventies, audiences and managements began to look for something else. With the familiarity of its plot and the added bonus of a well-written libretto which follows Shakespeare closely (there is only one minor change in the introduction of Stephano, Romeo's page), Gounod's opera seems a good bet for English audiences who do not like their Shakespeare tampered with too much.

Edmund Tracey has translated Barbier and Carré's libretto into English for the *new production*. "It's a very careful translation", M Frémeaux says, "and it was difficult because he had to consider every word not only in *the context of the melody but* also with reference to Shakespeare's text. But everybody in the company has worked with it, and it has been improved in places by the singers themselves." Structurally and musically he considers the work a masterpiece: "Perhaps even better achieved than *Faust*, better written for the theatre, orchestration, melody ...".

The role of Juliet is entirely new to Miss Masterson and, although her voice is particularly well suited to the French repertoire as a whole, she feels especially at home with the weight and tessitura of Gounod's vocal writing here. "It covers a big range; there are the same sorts of problems as in Margerite's music in *Faust* in going from one extreme to another. Both, for instance, have a waltz song in the first act which bears no relation at all to the last act, which is very heavy vocally.

"It's interesting to see how Juliet develops musically. She's quite girlish in the first act, her music is frothy and light, but she soon develops into the middle register of the voice with a much thicker quality in the orchestra. By the fourth act and the big love duet it is real lyrical singing. Juliet is supposed to be a 14-year-old, but she matures very quickly in the opera."

Although Miss Masterson will sing the role in English and is glad to have the chance to do so before taking it, she hopes, to Paris, then to Spain and America, she has worked hard at assimilating the French "sound" of the part, something she finds hard to define but considers essential to any Juliet. "Janine Micheau, who sang the part in Paris in the Fifties, is my idol—she was the French Juliet, and I like to think I've absorbed her flavourings, that they've nurtured my musical feelings...."

Romeo and Juliet is the first of three new French operas for Miss Masterson this year. Will her future career woo her more and more to France and French opera? She plans for the time being to divide her work more or less equally between home and abroad: after *Rigoletto* in Geneva, she will be in London for *Julius Caesar* in May and for Charpentier's *Louise* in September. That will be produced for the English National Opera by Jean-Claude Auvray, the very man who first led Miss Masterson to France after spotting her at the Coliseum as Manon and inviting her to play the part in Toulouse.

In September she will be in Geneva for *Mireille*, an opera in which Gounod's subject and musical treatment is often thought to be most perfectly matched. Liverpool Grand Opera claimed to put on the first English staging of its original five-act version last November, and it is an opera that Miss Masterson would very much like to see performed in London. Perhaps *Romeo and Juliet* will pave the way. After all, it earned the high praise of Berlioz, that most grudging of critics, and it made Gounod, at the age of nearly 50, feel 20 once again.

Hilary Finch


Louis Frémaux and Valerie Masterson
Photograph by Keith Waldegrave

The many sides of Karajan

West Berlin

The Berlin Philharmonic made surprisingly little fuss over Herbert von Karajan's silver anniversary as its lifetime conductor—no press releases, virtually no advance publicity. *Inevitably, an exchange of* speeches did take place during a concert in the Philharmonie, between West Berlin's Governing Mayor Dietrich Stobbe and the maestro, but they remained almost apologetically brief.

Berliners tend to take it for *granted that their orchestra* (which gets plenty of their tax money) ranks as the best in the world. It seems fatuous to apply such a superlative to *any* orchestra, but it does seem safe to say that the Berlin Philharmonic has very few rivals and no superiors at all. Where else in the world can an orchestra claim the benefits of a quarter-century association with a great conductor?

Mayor Stobbe addressed Karajan as "the world's most celebrated conductor", which no doubt caused the eyebrows of Berlin's many Leonard Bernstein fans to rise. The mayor called Karajan, to his face, "contradictorily many-sided" and a "brittle (or inflexible) but so warmhearted man". He paid tribute not only to Karajan the conductor and operatic stage director but also to the Academy of the Karajan Foundation, which trains young orchestral musicians, and to the competition for youth orchestras which Karajan sponsors and which brings the world's best to play against *one another. Stobbe also* hailed the orchestra's many foreign concert tours (including a recent one to China), which as public relations have proved worth a fortune to the walled city of West Berlin.

Karajan said in response: "Actually, it has never been granted to me during my life to look back; I have always stood in the prow of the ship, and now, when all of that lies behind us, the countless efforts, the work, the joy in the work, joy in the contact with the orchestra, with which I have travelled throughout *the world, everything comes* together here in one second and is *nothing other than the* awareness that the future lies before us. We must exert ourselves as much as ever, if not more so. When one goes up a mountain, when it gets higher, the air becomes thinner and every step becomes an augmented, sometimes tenfold exertion. Thus it is with us now: the smallest improvement is an enormous strain, because in the nature of things this quality is there which one can attain only after long, long years. But that has become for us today, if I may say so, a possession, and for that reason it is easy to look into the future and see how one can do it better."

Karajan writes his own ticket in Berlin. Not for years has he agreed to conduct opera here. The annual Berlin Festival always used to open with a gala concert by Karajan and the Philharmonic; since Karajan has so often had other fish he preferred to fry, the festival has long since quietly abandoned that tradition.

As a silver-anniversary gift, *Mayor Stobbe gave Karajan* a portrait etching by Max Liebermann of Richard Strauss. Soon afterwards Karajan and his orchestra presented an unusually "gala" programme of two Strauss works, with Anna Tomova-Sintov singing the Four Last Songs and Wolfram Christ and Mstislav Rostropovitch as the soloists in *Don Quixote*. The evening found them in top form, and the festive audience rewarded them with lengthy ovations.

Two bemusing bits of hierarchic socio-musicological interaction which punctuated the evening merit recording. At the end of the songs, the maestro kissed Miss Tomova-Sintov's hands, then she, perhaps without precedent, kissed his. At the end of *Don Quixote* Rostropovitch, that Russian volcano in perpetual eruption, kissed Karajan on both cheeks and then went round to the work's *Sancho Panza, Mr* Christ, to do the same to him. Both kissed Rostropovitch back. For one wild instant one wondered whether Mr Christ, in that carnival frenzy, would kiss his boss.

Paul Moor

Tintin and the Black Island
Arts

Irving Wardle

Four years have passed since Hergé's *intrepid* boy reporter last conducted an inquiry at this address, but from the new generation of seven to 12-year-olds packing out the Arts it is clear that he has not yet been outclassed by Buffalo Arthur.

The present adventure (adapted by Geoffrey Case) runs true to form with the bequiffed hero and his faithful hound stumbling upon an international crime ring and running the villains to earth in spite of blundering intrusions from the forces of law and order. This time the gang are printing their own money, and the chase leads to a Hebridean island of sinister reputation where everybody, including two bowler-hatted Scotland Yard clones, goes into kilts.

Comic relief, supplied mainly by the above-mentioned pair, is not up to much. But villainy, of the reliable German variety is fast moving and ruthless, and even generates some laughs of *its own; particularly from* Hugh Hayes, who goes through the show with an upraised plaster-encased arm which serves variously as a Hitler salute and a coat-hanger; and from Leda Hodgson, as a self-dramatizing spy with her heart so much in the right place that she is finally presented with an aircraft propeller for her solo getaway.

Richard Drabble is in perfect control of the hero's precocious *confidence and his flair for* putting one and one together; and Tony Wredden's simply staged production contains some well-timed surprises, ingenious effects (such as the repeated line "Come on" accelerating into the roar of *an aircraft engine*), and achieves a good balance between thrills and burlesque.

London debuts

One reason for starting with Anne Oland is the enterprising programme she offered. This inevitably attracted only a small audience, yet its members were considerably rewarded. Actually, the first of Stenhammer's Three Fantasias, op. 11, was played fluently but with the music's stormy expressiveness clouded by a hard tone and a certain rhythmic inflexibility. The Schumannesque second and third items in this group outstayed their welcome, too, yet here Miss *Oland settled down and started* to produce a warmly rounded tone.

Her mettle was shown, though, in Nielsen's Variations, op 40, whose invention is altogether more cogent, and the work's essential concentration was excellently conveyed. The sequence of events is greatly varied and, although some of the contrasts are extreme, they were always made to sound logical. Similar comments apply to Nielsen's Chaconne, op 32, which likewise has much unobtrusively original piano writing. Miss Oland's playing was here beautifully attuned to the composer's idiom, and in particular to the rises and falls of his music's intensity.

Another solidly accomplished work was Jorgen Jersild's *Trois Pièces en Concert*, which evoked old instruments such as the tambourin in No 1 and old dance forms like the farandole in No 3, but always to fresh and piquantly dissonant effect. These are virtuoso pieces whose severe tests Miss Oland passed with complete success, her interpretation being at once vivid and self-effacing. Jersild's keyboard writing is fluent and personal, and Pièce No 2, called "Romanesque", builds into a sophisticated rough-and-tumble which at the end is quietened *and simplified in a truly surprising* way.

In their performance of Beethoven's Cello Sonata, op 102 no 1, Lowri Blake and Janice Dawson promised much. The initial Andante had the right sort of preludial, exploratory feeling while the two Allegro vivace movements were robustly phrased. Miss Blake's tone, if not large, is consistent, and a good balance was maintained between the two instruments. The full measure of this late composition was by no means taken by these young players, of course, but something of the Adagio's brooding intensity was certainly suggested.

Two very attractive pieces by Frank Bridge followed. "Mélodie" gave an ardent, finely-spun melodic line to the cello, while "Spring Song" was more homely in its turns of phrase. Each received a *well considered performance*, exactly to scale. Debussy's Sonata was more of an approximation. Again, there was a good balance between cello and piano, but the essential impression of spaciousness out of proportion to the work's brevity, of a paradoxical reconciliation of clarity and complexity, was missing, as was the concentration of the central "Sérénade". In fact the whole piece sounded fragmentary, whereas its idea should coalesce.

Bernard Godeaux delivered the notes of the first and last movements of Bach's *Italian Concerto* with scarcely any variation of stress or dynamics, and this set the style of his entire recital. Even the Andante was without any suggestion of intimacy. Similarly, the Allegro *moderato of Schubert's Sonata*, D 664, was all conceived on the same level, or rather on a flat plane, at a uniform degree of intensity, so that most of the meaning disappeared. Inadequate though they were, in the slow movement there were some slight variations in touch, a few glimmers of a response to Schubert's musical ideas. But in the finale we returned to the flat plane of unadorned literal statement.

The effect of such piano playing was strange in Bach, stranger in Schubert, strangest of all in Chopin. *In the introduction of the Polonaise Fantasy*, op 61, Mr Godeaux managed a slight degree of flexibility, but once into the main body of the piece everything was again mechanical, quite without any hint that imagination has any place in music. Each phrase was banged out with a disconcerting amalgam of technical accuracy and emotional indifference.

Aside from a Handel trio sonata, the Trio Krosta, with an instrumentation of flute, oboe and piano, necessarily presented unfamiliar music. Among this was a Mozart Fantasy that I had never heard before and which received an expressive performance. An Introduction and Allegro alla Tarantella, specially written for the group by Gordon Jacob, had its first hearing, and though its thoughts were of no great moment they were spun out with much instrumen*tal resource. The flute and* oboe were driven particularly hard, yet the piece was played engagingly, in fact with zest.

Of equal compositional skill and far greater musical consequence was a Trio by Franz Reizenstein, whose works are unfortunately not much heard at present. Each of the three movements is closely even toughly, argued although the thought is well diversified. This also, had a good performance.

Leclair's Sonata, op 8 no 3, is not an interesting piece, yet Vanya Milanova gave it an incisive, graceful performance, and luckily it was followed by a better class of French music. Her approach to Chausson's *Poème* exactly matched its smouldering introspection, the ripeness and poise of her play*ing being remarkable. Something* more elusive is required in Debussy's Sonata, but again an impression was given of absolutely natural and spontaneous music making, even if Jonathan Dunsby was sometimes rather peremptory at the piano.

Miss Milanova particularly well caught the spirit of the central "Intermède's" sad if occasionally vehement Pierrot music, above all in the lovely violin arabesques over sustained keyboard harmonies with which it ends. Vladi*gerov's Chant proved to be* rather luxuriantly plaintive, full of sweeping, self-indulgently slavonic phrases, and played as to the manner born. Sarasate's *Carmen Fantasy* is equally straightforward in intent, being a dazzling firework *display, again thrown off by* Miss Milanova with nonchalant mastery.

Max Harrison

The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy
BBC 2

Miles Kington

HHGTTG, for all those *Times* readers who have been up the Orinoco or caught in an M1 snarl-up for the last few years, was an extremely funny and imaginative radio science-fiction series which became a cult, a book, a record and a stage play, is now a television series and will no doubt become film, calendar and cuddly toy. It started with the destruction of the earth (to make way for an intergalactic expressway) and goes on to detail the adventures of the two survivors, earthling Arthur Dent and Betelgeusian Ford Prefect, armed only with the *Time Out* of outer space, the joky, opinionated *Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Now, the test of a cult is whether its devotees will hang on after it has become popular, and for me *HHGTTG passes its* test easily. But there is a further test. Man is, as far as we know, the only creature in the universe who can devise an idea which works best in a non-visual medium (radio, record, book) and then insist on transferring it to a visual medium. The stage play was by all accounts disastrous. Undeterred, the author, Douglas Adams, has plunged on into television and I am relieved to report that the result is not half bad. The half that is not bad is, as you might expect, the words, for Adams's mind is a tireless source of paradoxes, teasing notions and inventive side-issues. Even of names, which are often the hardest bit; I cannot explain why, but Zaphod Beeblebrox is exactly right for the former president of the galaxy, and never was a cocktail better named than the "Pan-Galactic Gargle Blaster".

The other half is not bad either, actually. The special effects and noises boys could not possibly hope to win against the budget of something like *Star Wars*, but they earn an honourable draw. The cast, stoutly led by Simon Jones and David Dixon, have to fight mostly against the fact that nothing much happens. What happens mostly is a lot of good talk about what little is happening, which is why the star actor never even appears; Peter Jones's oh-so-cool voice as the Guide narrates words we see simultaneously on the screen—a radio-to-television trick which should not work but does beautifully.

Intriplicate Mime
Cockpit

Irving Wardle

The main piece in this contribution to the fifth International London Mime Festival is an adaptation of Zola's *Thérèse Raquin* which shows the company of three attempting *to translate* an arch-naturalist into the most non-naturalistic of stage forms.

It says much for the skills of Ian Cameron, Mollie Guilfoyle, and Robert Williams that they have assembled a workable pantomime from this resistant *material. At the same time they* are continually colliding with the non-verbal limits.

Mime generally runs into trouble with detailed narrative, as it does here with the group of minor figures who supply a social background to the central *crime passionel*. Putting them into masks does nothing to help the story line; and they come to life only when they quit the street and reappear behind gauzes as spectral onlookers at the final strangulation waltz of Thérèse and her lover.

The other limitation is that much of pantomime's language is devised for comedy.

To put over the idea that Thérèse's husband is a complacently unsuspecting dupe, he has to be shown as an outright fool, his mouth forever agape in a cretinous grin whenever he is not guzzling the contents of the medicine cupboard or snoring beside his sleepless wife.

But the approach to the seduction, the murder, and the guilt-laden final scenes do work extremely well. They are played as a precise recap, gesture by gesture, of the opening with the difference that the magnetic partners now repel instead of attracting one another. The passages in which the drowned man forces them apart by gently swimming between them are also finely imagined to show that there is no escape from this unbearably amiable ghost.

The use of fairground music strengthens the sense of a malignantly developing fable, and, whatever the limitations of the masks, they are beautifully *expressive objects and serve* (when worn by mannekins) to create the illusion of an enlarged company.

The programme begins with a heavily facetious sketch on the Creation, featuring God the Father in the likeness of a nutcracker-jawed pedant in a headmaster's gown belching the universe into existence.

Single Handed
Young Vic Studio

Ned Chaillet

Tim Thomas has had a popular one-man show for several years now, a migratory fringe production with dedicated followers. Still, he has been left relatively undiscovered with his flights of comic fancy unmoulded for broader audiences and his inventive and varied routines unpolished for more certain laughter.

In sloppy geniality he varies his present act, a production he calls *Single Handed*, with satirical guitar-accompanied songs, gloves and bare hands that perform wittily on a puppet stage, tart imitations of a recognizable American monetarist and the South African premier, and he never stays too long with one routine, usually simply ambling off to do something else.

It takes a certain amount of stage knowledge to know how much ambling you can do, and Mr Thomas has that down pat, perhaps from his early experiences with English experimental groups. He also seems to know just what his rubbery face looks like at each extraordinary dis*tension and his voice, which* handles multiple accents with ease, also manages to produce a sharp suggestion of Bob Dylan's voice singing: "I've been reborn/Now I sing corn."

Other songs have much of the scatty humour of London *Wainwright about them*, with the same bold emphasis on puns and jokes, but he is also a careful observer of the things he mocks so that his sympathies are always clear. His military spokesman is convinced that nuclear warfare is not only possible "but desirable", and his racist comedian, who wears door knockers on his chest, gets so tangled in racism and sexism that he becomes the victim of his own jokes.

He offers a patchwork performance of bright, raw comedy, but perhaps the time has come to tighten it. In the meantime he can be seen in his seemingly natural state at the chilly Young Vic Studio.

Guarneri Quartet
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Paul Griffiths

The Guarneri Quartet are not such frequent visitors that we have grown used to playing as distinctive and fine as they provided in their recital on Monday, given under the "Mainly Mozart" umbrella, but in fact leaving the honoured composer after a performance of his "Dissonance" quartet that, though not accident-free, still benefited greatly from their style. *Their special good fortune* is to have in Arnold Steinhardt a leader who leads not from on top but from within, metaphorically and practically: he gives their playing its expressive tone, particularly when inwardness is at issue, and his fragile, human, breathing but also singing line seemed to be protected and treasured by the rather stouter voices of his three companions.

The effect was of course valuable in the Mozart slow movement, which became almost an aria for Mr Steinhardt, with the long notes gaining their sub*stance slowly and the ornaments* all made alive and individual. But the same kind of solitary lyricism was even more apt in the slow first movement of Berg's quartet, Op 3, and, now joined by a sparkling variety of special effects from all four players, in an intensely wrought account of its second and final movement. This was a performance of quite extraordinary clarity, and one to show the piece fully as dramatic as the later Lyric Suite.

In the first of Beethoven's "Rasumovsky" quartets the *illusion began to slip*, and the Guarneri's intimate, feeling gracefulness began to seem wispy and pressured. It was not without interest to discover how they spirited away anything that might appear vulgar, uncouth or strained, most remarkably in *the second movement, but any* Beethoven performance that skates over the roughness must be only partial, and perhaps that was why, despite all their exquisiteness, they missed the exultation of the adagio.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

The three current exhibitions in the British Museum's Gallery of Prints and Drawings close on January 18 and not April 20 as stated in yesterday's review.

Book review

Bernini and the Unity of the Visual Arts
By Irving Lavin

(Oxford & Pierpont Morgan Library, 2 vols, £45)

As the visitor to the church of Santa Maria della Vittoria in Rome is walking down the nave his glance is suddenly caught by the gaze of an animated sculptured figure in the right-hand wall of the chapel to the left; he is, in fact, the donor of the chapel that bears his name, Cornaro. Nearer the chapel, the Cardinal's companions in their stage box or balcony and another group of men opposite are seen to be engaged in debate, in reading or in watching the sculptured event beneath the altar tabernacle. There a smiling, joyous angel delicately pulls aside the garments of St Teresa prior to plunging his golden arrow into her breast. The saint herself receives this manifestation of divine love with closed eyes, partly relaxed (her hands are limp), partly in a kind of paroxysm (her abdomen is tightly contracted). The cherub's gesture also seems to lift the saint bodily upwards, from the cloud where she *reclines* towards the effulgent light that descends in straight rays. Beneath the altar is a bas-relief of the Last Supper; on the floor, as if emerging from below, come gesticulating and *ecstatic* skeletons; in the vault above are visions that descend into the chapel space and at the point where the chapel vault joins the church an arc of angels display a scroll with the marvellous *legend*, "If I had not created heaven I would create it for you alone".

It is this magnificent work by Gianlorenzo Bernini, begun in the late 1640s, that provides the occasion for Professor Irving Lavin's book. The Cornaro Chapel is placed in the larger context of Bernini's other chapel designs, notably the Raimondi Chapel in San Pietro in Montorio and the Confessio of St Francesca Romana in Santa Maria Nova, and other isolated works like the sculpture of Truth in the Galleria Borghese. We learn to read the formal attempts to manipulate sculpture, architecture, polychromatic decoration and painting into some unity in these other works before registering the extraordinary *bel composto* into which he drew all those elements in the Cornaro Chapel.

But Professor Lavin has himself larger unities to pursue. What makes this such an exciting study is the gradual progress by which we are led to appreciate not only the for*mal delights of Bernini's work* but the intricate fusion of form and meaning. The Cornaro Chapel is explained as enunciating the process of salvation, through which the church, St Teresa, Federico Cornaro and his family, and the chapel visitor (representative of all mankind) are themselves united. Bernini's imagination, however, presented these habitual emphases of the church, not in symbolic terms, but in what Professor Lavin calls "a kind of existential happening, taking place here and now".

It is, on the one hand, a book by a scholar for others, who will or should be hugely in his debt. And if one has scepticisms, they are that the author is occaisoally too brief, too reliant upon our un*wavering attention to his dis*cussion. But on the other hand it offers the less specialized reader the information and, above all, the imaginative guidance that is needed to appreciate Bernini's achievement. It provides, too, the ingredients for a tour of Renaissance and Baroque Rome culminating in Bernini's masterwork; it is highly recommended reading for the intending visitor, who will find in the late Angelo Carletti's wonderful photographs of the saint and angel an intimation of that created "heaven" which almost passes belief.

Bernini has often been praised, as Professor Lavin notes, with the dubious accolade of "theatrical". Now we can see, via a last chapter on "Bernini and the Theatre", just how theatrical he was in the Cornaro Chapel: expected illusions are made real, the theatre of the world involves the spectator in a wholeness or totality (for which "theatre" was a word often invoked), and—as that splendid inscription declares—God is himself the ultimate producer.

John Dixon Hunt

Bernard Levin

The true heroes of the Soviet Union

The news from the Soviet Union is about as bad as it could be. It is clear that, just as the authorities have determined to crush the dissident movement entirely if they can, by terrorizing, incarcerating or driving abroad all those who defy them in the name of law and justice, so it is no less plain that they are also resolved on putting an end to any further increase in the numbers of those who are willing to risk everything by applying for permission to emigrate from the vast prison that is their country. Indeed, in July last year two Jewish refuseniks were told by a KGB official that the authorities intended, within a few months (the statement was made just before the Moscow Olympics), to crush the emigration movement as they had already dealt with the dissidents. In 1979 there had been a huge increase in the numbers of those applying for permission to leave (it is worth repeating once more that both Soviet law and the Declaration on Human Rights, which the Soviet Union has ratified, include provisions for unhindered emigration); obviously, the Soviet rulers have come to the conclusion that if the movement is not crushed out of existence it will go on growing until it infects the whole country.

They had already devised a new tactic for making intolerable the lives of those applying for permission to leave; in addition to the routine sacking of the applicant from his job, and the driving from schools and universities of his children, together with constant surveillance and harassment of the entire family, a further refinement of psychological torture has been added. After an applicant has filed his request to leave, the authorities, instead of refusing it, simply ignore it; he and his family suffer the consequences of the application, but are not even told that it *has* been refused.

Some applicants have now been waiting 18 months without being given any intimation of whether they will one day be allowed out or whether their application has been formally refused. This means that a considerable backlog has built up; I have some figures which combine those in this position with those who have been told that they will not be allowed out. In Moscow alone, there



Mr Evgeny Yakir: a courageous symbol.

are 20,000 people in such a plight; in Leningrad there are 10,000, in Kiev 7,000, in Odessa 3,000 to 4,000, in Kharkov 3,000. (And these figures, of course, represent only those applicants whom my informants know about.)

The news from Kharkov is particularly ominous. Emigration visas have hitherto normally been granted only on proof that the applicants have relatives living abroad with whom they wish to be reunited and on production by the applicant of an invitation to join these. Now, even when proof of close relationships is provided, the emigration office has taken to refusing permission on the manifestly false ground of "insufficient kinship" or "no reasons for unification"; worse, the essential invitations from abroad are not being delivered.

Meanwhile, official Soviet anti-semitism increases. Obviously, one of the ways in which Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate keep themselves as well as their faith alive is by studying and teaching their religion and the Hebrew language. I have written before about the suppression of Hebrew and of the study of Judaism; two characteristic instances of this policy took place last month. In one, a Jew called Uri Khoshorsky, who gives private tuition in Hebrew and religious studies (both to keep the knowledge in being and to eke out a living), was on his way to a pupil when he was arrested by the KGB. He was interrogated, and warned of the "serious consequences" of failing to obey previous orders to desist from such teaching. He was threatened with imprisonment; the questioning continued until after the expiry of the time for the lesson he was on his way to give. Pupils of Khoshorsky, and of another such tutor, Mr Essas, have been warned against their teachers by KGB officials, who tell them that they are in danger of being corrupted by studying with men who are ideologically unfit to teach.

Suiting their actions to their threats, the KGB broke up a class studying the Talmud with Essas (in his home, incidentally); they were told that the meeting was illegal, being an unauthorized group and/or a religious gathering.

There are worse cases than those. One is that of the Varvak family of Kiev. Mr Varvak, a mathematician, is a chronic invalid, suffering from a very severe form of diabetes; for one period of six months he was unable to obtain any medicine. The Varvaks applied three years ago for permission to emigrate; they have undergone the standard forms of persecution for those wanting to leave the Soviet Union—no work, seizure of correspondence from abroad, and the like—but in their case there has been more. The KGB made it clear that Mrs Varvak would be taken to a psychiatric "hospital" and that the Varvaks' three children would be taken away from them.

On November 10 last year, an ambulance arrived at their home; Mr Varvak was at that time in hospital. The KGB men demanded that Mrs Varvak come with them. They repeated the threat to deprive the Varvaks of their children, and told her "If you continue in this manner we will take you to a madhouse and you will stay there all your life". They then tried to drag the children away; Mrs Varvak screamed for help, and a crowd collected. The men continued to try to force her and the children to go with them. After a time, embarrassed by the number of witnesses, they left. Mrs Varvak telephoned the hospital where her husband was, and he returned home. Later the same day, the KGB men returned and again demanded that the Varvaks should go with them; the Varvaks and their friends insisted that the KGB men should show their identity cards, and after further argument they refused to do so and left.

So it goes on. Of course, the Soviet rulers are fighting the Hydra; the latest issue of the chief *samizdat* journal, *Chronicle of Current Events*, lists scores of names hitherto quite unknown in the work of demanding for Soviet citizens the civil rights their own laws and constitution specifically provide for, and I have no doubt that in both the civil rights movement and the emigration movement the increasing repression only means that, in the long run, more resistance will be provoked, not less. (As far as the emigration movement is concerned, since even Jews *who have not expressed a wish to emigrate* are increasingly discriminated against, in, e.g., education and employment, on straightforwardly anti-semitic grounds, more and more of them must inevitably come to the conclusion that since they suffer for being loyal Soviet Jews they might as well leave if they can.) But in the short run, of course, the repression must inevitably have its intended effect, and the most amazing and heartening aspect of the whole story lies in the numbers of those who stand fast in the face of persecution instead of allowing themselves to be crushed by it. Tomorrow, I shall write about Dr Victor Brailovsky, one of the most notable of recent Jewish victims, whose case is itself a sufficient indication of the sinister developments I have described; today, I shall conclude with a word about an individual who, though he does not have the international reputation of Dr Brailovsky, is in some ways a hideously symbolic figure.

He is Evgeny Yakir, and he is a symbol of the unchanging nature of Soviet tyranny because he is both the son of Colonel Yakir and the nephew of General Piotr Yakir, both of them heroes of the Revolution. Evgeny's father also fought in the Spanish Civil War and was killed after he returned to the Soviet Union; Evgeny's uncle, the General, one of the five leading generals in the Red Army, was one of those loyal Soviet commanders murdered by Stalin after trials, or condemnations without trial, more horrible, in the utterly impossible crimes the defendants were accused of and made to confess to, than even the show trials of Stalin's civilian associates. A far-off glimpse of the world of madness and cruelty in which Evgeny Yakir was born and in which his father died can be caught in this excerpt from Robert Conquest's monumental classic on the Stalin Purges, The Great Terror:

> Yakir sent a letter to Stalin from his prison cell, assuring him of his complete innocence. He wrote:
>
> > My entire conscious life has been spent working selflessly and honestly in full view of the Party and its leaders. . . . Every word I say is honest, and I shall die with words of love for you, the Party, and the country, with boundless faith in the victory of Communism.
>
> Stalin wrote on this letter: "Scoundrel and prostitute". Voroshilov added: "A perfectly accurate description". Molotov put his name to this and Kaganovich appended: "For the traitor and scum one punishment—the death sentence".

In 1937, when Evgeny's father and uncle were killed, he was seven years old; his mother was sent to a Siberian concentration-camp from which she emerged only in 1945 (Evgeny had be brought up by relatives). And Stalin's heirs, it seems, are still not finished with the Yakir family; Evgeny, now an expert in hydrodynamics, hydrostatics and oil hydraulics, was working at the Soviet Institute of Applied Mechanics until, in 1973, he applied for permission to leave the country. It was refused; he was immediately sacked; and for seven years he has been unable to earn his living in his own country and forbidden to seek it in another. But if the destroyers of the Yakirs are consistent, the family is no less consistent in its courage; my informants tell me that Evgeny retains his cheerfulness, ebullience and courage.

(To be concluded)

The endless competition for the countryside

Because of the triangular relationship between British farming, the conservationist lobby and Government, the Wildlife and Countryside Bill, which has had a second reading in the Lords, cannot be expected to solve all the problems. In the debate, Lord Walston pointed out that our countryside is the product of farming and we have no right to say is must not be changed. Inevitably, however, there is competition for use of the countryside between the development of agriculture and the preservation of flora and fauna.

The treatment of pasture with fertilizers or herbicides tends to have deleterious effects on wildlife, which has become increasingly dependent on the remaining uncropped areas of woodland and moor, high mountain tops and undrained land. There have been heavy losses of hedgerows, destroying habitat.

Simply to urge that these practices should be "stopped" is to miss the point. Food has to be produced at an acceptable price to consumers, and modern farming needs large arable areas for economic operation. The countryside cannot be fossilized into a pastoral world of nymphs and shepherds.

Fortunately, farmers are often conservationists, by temperament and through self-interest. But there are other competitors fighting for rural land use, city dwellers who want a share for recreation; who are slow to recognize that their playground is others' work-place; who regard farmers' bulls as trespassers on *their* footpaths; who understandably want the blessed relief from arid towns that green fields can offer. Developers too want green field sites for housing estates.

In order to control these multiple pressures, successive governments have made some attempt towards a rural use strategy, in which selectivity is a key factor. The best areas are to be preserved even at the cost of downgrading the rest.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as successively amended), has established National Nature Reserves (NNRs), and some 3,535 sites of special scientific interest covering 1,230,000 hectares, that is, 5.3 per cent of the total land surface of Great Britain. Planning regulations ensure that no site development may occur without owner and planning authority being notified; and that these selected areas are managed primarily for conservation, with Nature Conservancy Council grants to finance specific projects. A broad range of advisory and consultative services is available via the Nature Conservancy Council, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and the Agricultural Development and Advisory Services of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Is not all this enough? Dear me, no! The current Bill extends the system. The Secretary of State, on advice from the Nature Conservancy Council, will be able henceforth to *designate* selected areas, the owner or occupier of which will have to notify the Council of changes which might destroy natural features or harm wildlife. Orders can be made on the basis of a particular species, geological or physiographical features. There is to be an appeal procedure against Orders, and another procedure encouraging Council and owner to enter into management agreements so that land can be utilized with conservation features in mind. As a last resort, the Council will have compulsory purchase powers.

In sites of special scientific interest, economic considerations are subordinate to conservation; for example the capital grant process is inhibited by the need to take conservation into account. It is not proposed to pay any compensation simply for loss of capital value as a result of land being subject to an Order, but expenditure rendered abortive by an Order is to be reimbursed. In fact, private owners seek continuity, an assurance that they will be able to pass on land intact to the next generation, for whom they see themselves as stewards or quasi-trustees. What they urgently need is relief from capital transfer tax . . . the biggest threat.

There is an obvious precedent: the carefully planned form of bargain between owners and State introduced to preserve the National Heritage. The active and thrusting Heritage lobby has fought for—and won—valuable concessions permitting deferral—not cancellation—of capital taxes on stately homes, gardens, contents and surrounding land in return for promises to maintain for posterity and grant public access. Tax-free endowment funds can also be set up.

Under this system, now made workable by Finance Act 1980, land of "outstanding scenic, historic or scientific interest" can be "designated" by HM Treasury in advance of a particular transfer, so conferring tax relief. A very high standard is required, e.g. land in a national park or area of outstanding natural beauty. For scientific land, it is accepted that only limited access may be desirable.

So far access has been crucial in the tax bargain; it is what the State gets for the tax yield foregone, and which it passes on to the city-dweller as his share of the spoils. That seems fair enough, since high capital taxes and land values make tax relief a tasty and effective carrot to dangle. Also tax deferral carries useful sanctions. If an owner fails to keep his bargain, a demand is presented to him for what he would have paid if the bargain had never been struck.

If capital tax relief is to be accepted as a valid mechanism to preserve our countryside, much remains to be done. More streamlined procedures and practices are needed, so that owners will know in advance whether the tests will be satisfied. Under the Countryside Bill, designation is initiated by government; for tax purposes, designation is initiated by the owner. In general, the criteria for different kinds of "designation" need to be fully aligned, and a total package created and publicized. Three government departments will be involved, Environment, Agriculture and Revenue, and all will need to work together.

Oliver Stanley

The author is Chief Taxation Adviser to the Country Landowners' Association.

Richard Dowden on the tangled roots of the civil war in El Salvador

Where security can be a deadly word

As the persistent fever of political assassinations breaks into open civil war in El Salvador, the country has begun to be noticed by the world's media. Last year, despite some 10,000 violent deaths in the tiny Central American state, it was hardly ever mentioned.

El Salvador is slightly larger than Wales but it is densely populated with 5.5 million people. Nearly three quarters of the land is owned by an oligarchy known as "the 14 families". Land is given over to export crops such as coffee—a policy which creates a mass of landless destitute peasants.

According to 1976 United Nations statistics 75 per cent of Salvadorean children under five years old, suffer from malnutrition, 63 per cent of the population lack clean water, unemployment runs at 50 per cent and 90 per cent of the population earn less than £50 a year.

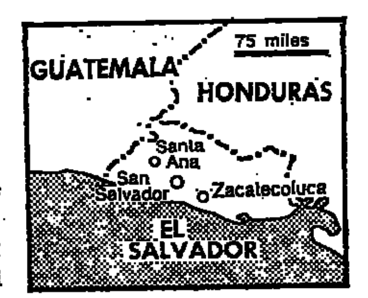
The murderous civil war in the country has frequently been presented in the media as a battle between "left" and "right" which the "moderate" reformist junta and the army are unable to control.

It is true that at each end of the political spectrum there are avowed Marxists and fascists but it is not only the extremists who are doing the killing or deliberately making political gains from them. The civil war involves the whole country.

When the Government of President Carlos Humberto Romero was overthrown in October 1979 it was replaced by a junta which was described by one of its military members, Colonel Adolfo Majano, as "moderate left". It certainly included a broad spectrum of political views and carried with it the hopes for land and social reform. The United States recognized it and offered assistance in implementing the land reform programme.

Within four months 19 cabinet ministers, 10 heads of government agencies and four out of the five supreme court judges proffered their resignations. The issue was the lack of progress on reform and the continued killings by the security forces which the Government seemed powerless to stop.

A new junta was formed from the rump of the Christian Democrats and the military at the beginning of 1980 but in the first four months of the



year the number of killings exceeded the 1979 total.

The independents, communists, social democrats and the moderate Christian democrats formed the Frente Democratico Revolucionario, the FDR, an umbrella opposition group. Its military counterpart, formed from four guerrilla groups, is the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMNL) which accepts the political leadership of the FDR. With the recent ousting of Colonel Majano from the junta, the last reforming elements in the army have been purged, and have joined the democratic political groups in opposition.

But the seesaw has not tipped because the army has retained power by force. It is now led by Colonel Jaime Abdul Guttierez who has also been made Vice President to the Christian Democrat President Napoleon Duarte, an ineffectual figurehead who was installed on December 14.

The Government, the army and the death squads are now parts of a seamless cloak of repression. The Government denounces the death squads but is unable to make the army control them. It seems unwilling or unable to purge the security forces of members of the death squads or those who are sympathetic to them.

The evidence collected by Catholic priests, nuns and Church workers has led the Socorro Juridico, the legal aid office of the Archdiocese of San Salvador, to conclude that 80 per cent of the killings which took place last year were assassinations of unarmed civilians by the security forces.

Archbishop Oscar Romero spoke out continually against this arbitrary killing, a stand which led to his own assassination in March last year. Just before he was murdered he said that repression against the people had increased tremendously. "Armed troops search farm houses, burn peasants' belongings and kill people. There is a clear programme aimed at destroying the popular organizations. Leaders of unions and other popular organizations are being systematically persecuted."

At his own funeral more than thirty people died. The official version said that there were no troops in the vicinity of the Cathedral at the time. The entire body of visiting bishops presiding at the funeral denied this and said they saw several troops near the Cathedral.

Again, the statement of the Maryknoll sisters, the Catholic missionary order, four of whose members were murdered on December 4, repudiated the government version of their deaths and said that there was a "high probability that the security forces were involved in the deaths of these four women".

These are the cases which have already appeared in the world's press but the Socorro Juridico has collected evidence of thousands of other killings involving security forces. Local advocates and organizers of the land reform programme, identified ironically by elections, are frequently arrested, taken away and shot, sometimes after being mutilated by torture.

The United States, unwilling to see another Central American state follow the same path as Nicaragua, is supporting the government of El Salvador with aid, 90m dollars worth in 1980. Although it has recently cut off military aid, it supplies military advisers and indirectly trains Salvadorean soldiers in Panama.

It has tried to find a third way between the guerrillas and the oligarchy—a third way which seems not to exist.

On December 10 the FMNL launched an all-out attack in rural areas hoping to bring down the government before Ronald Reagan becomes President of the United States on January 20.

This campaign is now reaching a crescendo. Although the United States is unlikely to intervene militarily, the Reagan administration will probably increase aid to the government, restore military aid and may countenance or even encourage other Central American governments to lend their troops to the Salvadorean government. The country is now entering a full civil war which is unlikely to end until a government emerges which can control the army.

LONDON DIARY

And first by a mere 24 hours . . .

Wrath and indignation has descended from many quarters following my speculations in this space the other day on which was actually the first day of the week. Many readers have directed me, not always in tones of Christian charity, to the Book of Genesis, which they say gives irrefutable proof that God started making the world on a Sunday.

Well, it doesn't. No starting time, day or date is given by the reporter who wrote the Old Testament's lead story. It is merely tradition which dictates when our week should begin. Tradition, at least among publishers of diaries, is moving heavily in favour of Mondays, which as you may recall is how this earnest debate began.

I have taken advice from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, whose week undoubtedly begins on a Sunday, and who of all people ought to know why. "There is certainly no mention of days of the week in Genesis," they assured me. "The Jewish Sabbath was not fixed until the fourth century, and it is tradition rather than evidence which has fixed it on a Saturday."

As inventors of the Sabbath, Jews naturally use diaries which begin on Sunday, which is regarded as a normal working day in Israel. The Chief Rabbi's office also mentioned in passing, but with some pride, that the Conservative Party has moved its annual conference back a week this year to avoid a clash with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, on October 8.

Christians celebrate their day of rest on Sundays, partly in commemoration of the Resurrection but also because the earliest Christians, who were Jews, had an extra day of prayer after the traditional Sabbath.

Very well, I concede that, based on tradition rather than fact, God began to make the world on a Sunday, and that should therefore be the first day of the week, in spite of the efforts of so many current diaries and calendars to make us think otherwise. But I still say that if the job had been given to MacAlpines they would have started it a day later.

Pick and palette

Miners are a romantic bunch who view with nostalgia the bad old days of pit ponies, dust and the winning of coal by pick and shovel. At least that is the impression given by the entries in the mineworkers' annual painting competition, on show at the National Coal Board's London headquarters in Grosvenor Place until Friday.

Ponies are a favoured subject, although they are no longer in regular use at NCB pits. Scruffy old weed-strewn pitheads, back-to-back cottages in Durham mining villages, and even a rosy pastoral scene of a pithead of the early 1800s, all hark back to an earlier age when low wages and high risk forged the strong community spirit which still sets miners as a race apart.

Jack Reading, the contest organizer, told me: "Most miner artists get nostalgic about the old times. Our chairman, Sir Derek Ezra, would rather they showed the clean, modern industry, but if that is the image he wants he should get a photographer, not a painter."

Perhaps significantly, the £500 first prize went to David Wharton, a fitter on the coal face at Gedling colliery near Nottingham, who painted his mates—and himself—emerging victorious from the cage after being the first shift to cut 1,000 metres of Gedling coal at one, crouching. Wharton snatched the award from under the noses of a number of outsiders, including professional artists, who were allowed to enter for the first time this year.

Like the famous Ashington group of miner artists of the thirties who learned the basics of their craft through the Workers' Educational Association, Wharton is largely self-taught, apart from a few evening classes to learn the ground rules of technique. The Ashington paintings now hang in the NCB staff college at Longbenton, Northumberland. Perhaps Wharton's canvas should hang in Sir Keith Joseph's office to remind him that we have at least on reasonably efficient and successful nationalized industry.

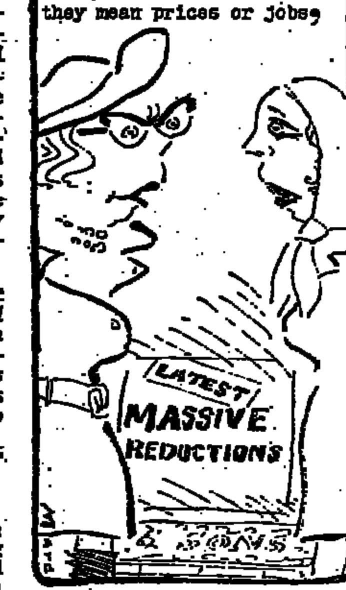
My apologies to Richard Seifert, the architect, to whom I mistakenly awarded a knighthood in yesterday's edition. His open-plan design for The Times *office cannot be conducive to concentration.*

Lean time

Should you be walking in a state of perfect sobriety along Bridge Street, Westminster, and happen to glance up at Big Ben with the distinct impression that it is leaning over, do not under any circumstances panic. Your eyes no not deceive you.

The Department of the Environment confirm that the clock tower is leaning 15 inches to the north-west. But that is not all; the great square Victoria Tower, at the other end of the Palace of Westminster, is leaning 15 inches to the south-west. Indeed a great deal of London is off the plumb; the Monument in the City inclines 12 inches to the south-south-west. But allow me to inject a sense of proportion by reminding you that the Leaning Tower of Pisa is no less than 14 feet out of true at the top.

St Paul's Cathedral, I gather, is still pointing more or less the right way up, but it is rising and falling. The main piers supporting the dome are pressing into the blue clay below at a slightly inwards angle, forcing the dome upwards. At the same time other parts of the building are sinking



slowly into the subsoil. A short distance to the east, a corner of the Bank of England has gone down seven inches in the last 70 years; and the Tower of London, while neither sinking nor rising to any appreciable degree, is moving minutely away from the Thames.

It all has to do with geology; London is gradually settling into its bed of clay, while at the same time the whole of south-east England is tilting into the sea, a fact which is almost certain to make the hugely expensive Thames flood barrier obsolescent before the twenty-first century is very old.

Peak condition

As this is the International Year of the Disabled, I shall tell you about Norman Croucher, before he departs for the Andes to climb Aconcagua (22,832 feet).

Croucher, who makes a habit of climbing unpronounceable South American peaks despite having two artifical legs, has very confirmed views about how newspapers report the achievements of disabled people. They should be portrayed, he says, warts, wooden legs, and all. His approach, which has some relevance in this particular year, is that goggle-eyed, rosy-tinted, legless-man-climbs-Andes media coverage sets the disabled apart and does them more harm than good. He should know; he has had his own fair share of it.

He lost his legs from the knees downwards 21 years ago at the age of 19 but was lucky, he says, that the knee joints were preserved. Two years ago he led an expedition to Huascaran, one of the highest Andean peaks at 21,830 feet, and this year he is taking part in two more climbs to promote the Disabled Sports Foundation, of which he is an adviser, and the British Sports Association for the Disabled, which is short of volunteers to co-ordinate its work.

Apparently some of the less expensive newspapers, which do not like their idols to have feet of clay, are reticent about mentioning the precise circumstances which created his disability, and about which he is perfectly forthright. "It was my own fault entirely. I fell in front of a train when I was drunk." No doubt at all; he's one of us.

A researcher from the Institute of Psychiatry has been handing out questionnaires to all members of the editorial staff of this newspaper to discover whether, in view of the stresses associated with our uncertain future, the little yellow van should be sent for. After numerous questions about loss of sleep and the hopelessness of life, we are asked how many times in the last week we have drunk eight or more measures of spirits at a sitting. The consensus of opinion is: "Not nearly enough."

Alan Hamilton



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COLONEL GADDAFI'S LEBENSRAUM

Lord Carrington was clearly right to condemn the Libyan occupation of Chad during his visit to Morocco. The expansionist ambitions of the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, pose a threat to the stability of North and West Africa, and by extension to the Middle East.

On the face of it, it is true, Colonel Gaddafi's men intervened in Chad in order to lend the Government of President Goukouni Oueddei a helping hand in defeating the rebels led by the former Defence Minister, Hissene Habre. A month ago the Libyan intervention tilted the balance, and the capital, Ndjamena, passed from rebel control back to the Government. Far from withdrawing, subsequently, however, Colonel Gaddafi has dug in, and according to some reports has reinforced the estimated 4,000 strong force (equipped with tanks and artillery) which he sent to President Oueddei's aid. Last week the Libyan leader *announced that Libya and Chad* had "merged", a move which to all intents and purposes is a Libyan annexation of Chad in disguise.

The record of Libya's "mergers" with other states has not been a successful one. The most recent venture of the kind — the "union" with Syria — seems to be foundering on the difficulties involved in reconciling two countries with strong-willed leaders and differing political systems. Syria is in any case geographically separated from Libya by over a thousand miles. Chad, however, is both next door to Libya and internally weak, and the Libyan-Chad "merger" has caused considerable anxiety in other neighbouring states.

Libya is bounded directly not only by Chad, but also by Niger, the Sudan, as well as Tunisia and Algeria. Control of Chad will give Colonel Gaddafi further access to Nigeria, Cameroun, and the Central African Republic. Much of the territory in question is little more than desert, but judging from maps published in Tripoli, the Libyan leader is nonetheless aiming at an Islamic Saharan Republic under his tutelage. Besides, the region is not without resources—Niger, for example, is rich in uranium.

The states of North and West Africa clearly believe that the Libyans are not likely to stop at Chad. Nigeria has complained for some time of Libyan interference in its affairs, and particularly resents the open recruitment by Libya of Moslems from Northern Nigeria to fight for it in the Chadian civil war. Relations between Tripoli and Lagos *recently reached breaking point*, and the Libyan Ambassador to Nigeria was expelled when the Libyans turned their Lagos Embassy into a "Peoples Bureau", one of the practices which has earned Colonel Gaddafi his reputation as a man whose policies are often daft as well as dangerous.

The expulsion of ambassadors, on the other hand, is not a step which is likely to deter Libyan ambition, and although Nigeria (as an oil-producing state of some size) carries weight in the region, most of the countries *concerned are so small*—and often so divided internally—that they can be taken over and controlled by a limited military force. The power best placed to prevent this happening is France, which has traditional interests in the area, and was once the principal colonial power.

France already has troops stationed in East Africa—in Senegal, Gabon and the Ivory Coast, and is now actively considering sending units to Niger to guard the uranium mines which supply France's nuclear industry. This week more French marines and paratroopers were sent to reinforce France's largest West African force, in the Central African Republic, bringing the total French combat strength there to 2,000 or so. France and Libya have previously crossed swords over the Central African Republic (formerly the Central African Empire). In 1979, French troops deposed the self-proclaimed Emperor Bokassa, despite Colonel Gaddafi's attempts to keep him in power. The French Government has condemned Libya's takeover of Chad as "a threat to the security of Africa", and evidently regards the Central African Republic as Libya's next likely target. France has also sent a military mission to Khartum to discuss an increase in its level of aid to the Sudan.

On the other hand, France is understandably reluctant to intervene directly, unless asked to do so. In Chad, France backed the rebel forces with both words and weapons, but, short of committing its own forces, was unable to prevent the defeat of the pro-French rebels (a setback which has been roundly criticized in the French press). To make matters worse, on the day France attacked Colonel Gaddafi for his merger with Chad, the state-owned oil company Elf-Aquitaine signed several oil exploration agreements with Libya, leaving embarrassed Government officials to explain that they had not been consulted, and did not approve.

In the final analysis, it will be *for the African states themselves* to resist the Libyan advance, if necessary with the backing of French military muscle. African heads of state have been meeting in Lome under the chairmanship of President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, the current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity. It was the OAU—or rather, the six member countries most directly concerned, Libya, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Cameroun, Niger and Nigeria—which worked out a ceasefire formula for Chad in Lagos last year.

Since the Libyan Foreign Minister, Ali Abdessalem Triki is attending the Lome meeting, the OAU has an opportunity to take Libya to task, as well as to reiterate its support for the Lagos agreements. It can also stress the need for national unity in member states. In Chad, after all, there are at least eleven warring factions, some Moslem (from the North), some Christian (from the South), and some a mixture of the two. Given their vulnerability, and the predatory nature of their more powerful Libyan neighbour, civil strife is a luxury which the smaller African states cannot afford.

A DIFFICULT POST TO FILL

The sudden death of Mr Gundelach is a further blow to the new European Commission, which had already run into difficulties last week over the allocation of responsibilities. A further decision will now be required on the question of who should take over the important sector of agriculture, looked after by Mr Gundelach with some distinction for the past four years. The Danish government has made it clear that it expects its own nominee, who will take Mr Gundelach's place in the Commission, to get the agriculture job too; but that is not a foregone conclusion. Agriculture is bound to be a sought-after job, and a new balance will have to be struck inside the Commission when Mr Gundelach's successor is known.

Whoever he is, the Commissioner who now takes over agriculture will have to plunge straight into the thick of things. The Commission's proposals for prices for the next farming year —always the beginning of a difficult tussle—are due soon, and had been expected by the end of this month. Then there is the all-important question of the reform of the Community budget, on which the Commission has to make proposals by the middle of the year. Reform of budget spending inevitably means an attempt to control spending on agriculture, which takes up some 70 per cent, and increase spending in other areas. So Mr Gundelach's successor in the agriculture job, who may not have Mr Gundelach's approach to the subject, will be in a key position as the Commission prepares its ideas.

Mr Gundelach's own record was that of a defender of the basic principles of the common agricultural policy—the granting of preference to producers from member countries, a common price system backed by intervention buying, and joint financial responsibility. But he, more than his predecessors in the job, was aware that the policy was not working well in practice, as was shown by the huge and costly surpluses that have accumulated—and by the fact that though the bigger farmers have done well out of it, it has done little for the small ones. In recent years the Commission has tried to hold down price increases and has made proposals for curbing overproduction. Some have been accepted, but all too often they have been swept aside by the Ministers of Agriculture, whose prime concern has been the pressure from farming lobbies in their own countries.

The situation has been changed by the prospect that the Community will soon reach the limit of the resources available to it, and so cannot continue to increase its spending as it has in the past. At the same time Britain, which suffers most from the agricultural policy, has said that it does not challenge the basic principles as such. So some way has to be found to reform the actual working of the policy— possibly by limiting the quantities that are given unlimited price guarantees, possibly by shifting some of the burden of support from the Community budget to national exchequers, possibly by setting prices at a level which would be adequate for efficient farmers and providing support through other means for the inefficient. Means can be found if the political will is there, and it will be up to the Commission, including Mr Gundelach's successor, to take the initiative.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chemical weapons control

From Mr Cyril D. Townsend, MP for Bexleyheath (Conservative)

Sir, Your Defence Correspondent admirably described (feature, January 9) both the problems John Nott, our new Secretary of State for Defence, will have in finding savings in Britain's defence estimates for 1981-82 and how in defence terms "the eggs are in too many baskets". May I, therefore, suggest to John Nott that this is not the time to add one new item to our armoury—a capability for offensive chemical warfare. There were grounds for thinking that his outstanding predecessor, Francis Pym, was persuaded of the need for such a major policy change.

I do not dispute that there is cause for concern over the Soviet Union's growing capacity for chemical warfare. There have been recent reports that over 15 per cent of their missiles are equipped with chemical ammunition and that some 90,000 Soviet troops are deployed in chemical warfare units. General Sir Walter Walker has stated in your columns:

"Their doctrine regards the tactical use of chemical weapons as a normal form of conventional warfare, and in this field they are better militarily equipped and psychologically prepared than any other country in the world".

Nato as a whole has chemical weapons available to it as the United States maintains an offensive chemical capability. For many years British governments have not believed it necessary for British forces to stockpile offensive chemical weapons as well and I believe that is still the correct decision.

A move by Britain to develop an offensive capability would go right against our long-standing commitment to achieve a form of arms control to prohibit not only the use of chemical weapons but also their possession and to thus extend *the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Such a* commitment should not be dismissed lightly in this dangerous decade.

Britain should continue to develop sophisticated defensive measures against a chemical attack. (As it is, our protective clothing and detection equipment are among the best in the world).

In short, this is not the time for Britain to be spending money on producing an expensive offensive chemical capability. It is the time to take the lead in getting an agreement on the control of chemical weapons, and searching for some acceptable form of verification.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL D. TOWNSEND,
House of Commons.
January 12.

National Insurance burden on industry

From the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry

Sir, It is encouraging to learn from your Political Editor (report, January 13) that the Chancellor intends to go for an "incentive" Budget strategy. It is less encouraging to gather that he has so far not been persuaded that the best incentive for all at this particular time would be a cut in the National Insurance surcharge (NIS).

When this tax was imposed as a "temporary" measure by the former Labour Chancellor, Mr Denis Healey, it was seen then by the Opposition for what it is: a tax on jobs. It affects exports but *not imports,* thus damaging our international competitiveness against foreign goods at a time when our ability to compete is affected by the strong pound. How "temporary" is "temporary"? And are not the solid reasons advanced against the tax when it was first imposed equally justified now?

No doubt the Chancellor likes it because it is a convenient tax and, on the surface, does not directly affect the retail price index. But only on the surface. In fact, because it raises costs overall, it infiltrates into all prices. If the Chancellor argues that abolishing the tax would cost too much money, *then* there are certainly good grounds for substantially cutting it as the first step towards phasing it out. A number of our industrial rivals overseas are doing this now—improving their competitiveness and raising employment by reducing the burden of labour costs on employers. We should not let them steal yet another march on us.

Nor should he believe those arguments that cutting the tax would merely put more money into the hands of the unproductive end of business. Our calculations suggest that of the total NIS burden on the private sector and the public corporations, taken together, over 70 per cent is now accounted for by business "in need" across the spectrum from manufacturing to constructing, from tourism to distribution and many more.

A two per cent cut in the charge could mean a balance of payments improvement, lower retail prices, and within two years perhaps 200,000 more jobs; most important of all, an improvement in profit levels and a consequent impact on investment.

Other Budgetary measures to help industry, such as a cut in the fuel oil duty and some measures to ease the burden of rates—both high on the list of CBI priorities—would be no substitute for imaginative action on the NIS. But if the Chancellor cannot do this then he should be generous elsewhere. Otherwise, the phrase an "incentive strategy" will be meaningless to our wealth creators.

Yours sincerely,
TERENCE BECKETT,
Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street, WC1.
January 13.

London University election

From Miss Patricia Rawlings

Sir, I, too, am a recent graduate of London University—so recent that I was to have been awarded my degree by the then Chancellor, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, at the 1980 presentation ceremony at the Albert Hall. This was an occasion to which I and my thousands of fellow graduates, and our families, had been greatly looking forward, as also to the ecumenical service at Westminster Cathedral which was to follow the presentation ceremony and which indeed was very much part of the whole day of academic celebrations.

Unfortunately, the date chosen (many months in advance, as these things have to be) was May 14, which turned out to be the TUC's "day of action"; shortly before the day for which I and my fellow graduates had been so eagerly waiting, we each received a letter from the Vice-Chancellor telling us that the whole thing—presentation ceremony and service—had been cancelled because of the "widespread disruption" inevitable.

The "day of action" was a disaster from the point of view of the country as a whole and an even bigger one from that of the trade unions movement. It was a perfect example of the kind of ossified thinking represented for so long by Jack Jones, and a symbol of the legacy of industrial backwardness and folly he bequeathed to Britain on his retirement from his trade unions post, which had taken place not long before. And now I am asked to vote, in the election of a new Chancellor, for him and all he stands for. I shall not.

A final point: in addition to the letter from the Vice-Chancellor announcing the cancellation, we also received one from the Queen Mother herself, expressing her disappointment and regret, with a special word of condolence for our families. If Mr Jones becomes Chancellor and *the TUC helps to wreck another* presentation ceremony, would he express *his* regret at what his friends, successors and pupils had managed to achieve?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA RAWLINGS,
53 Eastcastle Street, W1.
January 13.

From Mr J. C. Shum

Sir, Whilst accepting that your London Diarist could not quote me fully in his otherwise first-class piece on the next Chancellor of London University (December 10), I fear that his quoting me not only out of context but also our of one sentence may have far-reaching complications which even he may not know of. May I now, please, be allowed to re-state what I originally said?

I said: "I love my university sufficiently not to wish to be silent on this very important matter. Apart from being one of the younger members of the Royal Family, Princess Anne, I regret to have to say, has no relevant quality or qualification whatsoever known to the world to hold such a high office. (I did not say "high academic office".) The reputation of the University of London is no longer a domestic concern for the metro*polis or even Britain; it has been* for generations, and will continue to be the concern of thousands of its graduates from, or working in, all corners of the globe. This world-class academic institution deserves a Chancellor of the highest possible calibre."

Yours very sincerely,
J. C. SHUM,
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Psychology,
Glasgow College of Technology,
Glasgow.

EEC fishing zones

From Mr R. J. H. Beverton, FRS

Sir, Professor Wynne-Edwards's plea (January 2) for a different approach to the EEC fisheries problems will strike a chord of sympathy with all those of us who have watched, in growing desperation, the hitherto fruitless attempts of member countries to reach agreement. His solution, to divide up the EEC area into exclusive national fishing zones so that each country has, in effect, its own back garden to tend is not, however, as attractive as it may seem at first sight.

To enjoy one's own garden and its produce with reasonable assurance for the future, the fence should surround not only the fruit and flowers for harvesting but also the seed stock, the greenhouse and the nursery beds. The distribution of the main fish stocks of the EEC area does not, unfortunately, match such a requirement. The most important species, including haddock, herring, cod and plaice, make use during their life-cycle of the greater part of the space and basic productivity of the North Sea—spawning in one area, growing up in another, and ranging widely for food as adults.

I can give here just two examples of the consequences. Haddock, as juveniles, spread themselves over much of the north and central regions of the North Sea, where they are vulnerable as a by-catch in the small-meshed nets used for industrial fishing, mainly by countries other than Britain. Again, a contributory cause of the decline of the North Sea herring has been the growth since the war of the Danish *industrial fishing* for young herring on the Bloeden Ground in the eastern North Sea. No politically feasible system of national fishing zones would provide adequate long term safeguards to British fishing interests in either case, or ensure the good husbandry of the EEC fish resources generally.

The fact that in much of the EEC area the fish stocks and the fishing activities of the member countries are closely interwoven is inescapable. Therefore, to my mind the best—and probably the only—way ahead is still to treat the stocks as a common property resource and to continue to strive for agreement on their rational exploitation on a community basis. This was the aim of the former North East Atlantic Fisheries Convention and just this philosophy is surely at the heart of the concept of the EEC itself. But now the task is more straightforward; fewer countries are involved and control can be more effective. Furthermore, in the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea the EEC has a source of scientific advice, intergovernmental but independent, *which has rightly earned worldwide* respect for its quality and objectivity.

Shortly before Christmas agreement was on the verge of being reached on a system of quotas. These would not have given the British fishing industry all it wanted, but it would have at least offered the stability which the industry so urgently needs in order to reshape itself for the future. I earnestly hope that the attractive, but I fear illusory, simplicity of Professor Wynne-Edwards's approach does not now become an excuse for yet further delay.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. H. BEVERTON,
55 Sandown Avenue,
Swindon,
Wiltshire.

Lets and hindrances

From Mr John Pomian

Sir, Dr Wilkes (January 8) did a great service in drawing attention to Western red tape obstructing visitors from Eastern Europe. Its extent, and the damage done, is seldom realized in Britain.

Last year, we organized a travelling exhibition of old master drawings from Poland which went on show in the museums of Cambridge, Birmingham, Cardiff and Dublin. It was all done with the assistance of the Foreign Office, the Arts Council and the British Council.

Polish curators were invited to come, as international practice requires, to accompany the works of art on their journeys and attend the openings at various museums. They all applied for their British visas at least three, and sometimes five weeks prior to departure. Out of the nine individual visits necessitated during the seven months when the exhibition was on display in the British Isles, only in two cases were visas obtained without the need for intervention at departmental level in Whitehall. In one case the visit had to be cancelled altogether because of the delay, and on another a curator was prevented from attending the unpacking of the drawings, as well as the ceremonial opening and civic reception, and could only arrive the day after.

In every other case visas were delivered at the last moment, and the consequent uncertainty caused anxiety and sometimes severe inconvenience. The exhibition took place within the framework of the Anglo-Polish cultural agreement, the aim of which is to promote good will and mutual understanding.

Two departments, the Foreign Office and the Home Office, handle visas for East Europeans. Each points an accusing finger at the other, while the existing regulations provide employment for civil servants who implement them. That is why I was told by my friends in Westminster that virtually nothing can be done.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN POMIAN,
59 Jermyn Street, SW1.

Opus Dei

From Mr Harry Biggs-Davison

Sir, While intrigued by the tabloid-style revelations of your profile of Opus Dei (January 12), I think it is regrettable that its writers chose not to develop the point that Opus Dei in Britain "was registered as a charity with the stated object of advancing Roman Catholicism and of charitable works". For, though I am not a member of Opus Dei and have no intention of becoming one, I have been deeply impressed by the way in which the organization in Britain has gone about its "stated object".

While it was correctly pointed out in the profile that residential accommodation and educational facilities for university students are provided at Netherhall House, and these are not confined to Opus Dei members or even Catholics, it should be added that the various halls of residence have a specific formal character designed to encourage a Christian spirit of service.

The splendidly run boys' clubs and the help given to the old, sick and lonely in hospitals and homes around the various halls of residence in London, Manchester and Oxford *are simple, but impressive, examples* of the practical Christian works fostered by Opus Dei in this country. Is this not worthy of mention, whatever else the organization may or may not be?

Yours faithfully,
HARRY BIGGS-DAVISON,
128 Kensington Church Street, W8.
January 12.

MIND and its work

From Mr W. R. van Straubenzee, MP for Wokingham (Conservative)

Sir, On November 13 last Mr Bernard Levin devoted an entire column to strictures of me in highly personal terms and referred to my criticisms of the organization MIND. I have since received some critical comment that I never replied. I am grateful to you, therefore, for enabling me to make three things clear.

First, that for the third time Mr Levin's column was written without any prior reference to me, though clearly only after accepting briefing by Mr Smythe, the Director of MIND.

Second, that I did in fact reply but that you, Sir, after taking legal advice, decided not to publish my letter.

Third. A central point made by Mr Levin was that I had been pursuing inquiries about the political activities of Mr Smythe's wife, but that in fact Mr Smythe is unmarried. It is therefore relevant that in two separate letters written since the article appeared Mr Smythe refers in terms first to "my wife" and second to being "the father of five and grandfather of one".

Yours faithfully,
W. R. van STRAUBENZEE,
House of Commons.
January 8.

Drinking and driving

From the Chief Constable of Warwickshire

Sir, In its forthcoming debate on those clauses of the Transport Bill which relate to drinking and driving Parliament will once more be considering the delicate balance between the liberty of the individual and restrictions of that liberty which may be necessary to improve road safety.

The Bill contains much which will appeal to police and to the motorist. The introduction of electronic breath analysis machines for use at police stations will largely replace the need for blood or urine samples thereby removing from the procedure much which is distasteful to the motorist and the police alike, as well as eliminating the present time lapse between taking a specimen and obtaining the results of laboratory analysis. A new electronic device for roadside screening tests, already tried, tested and approved, will enable police to warn a driver that he is close to the limit and should therefore proceed with caution.

The test of the Bill in the context of drinking and driving is quite simply whether the new proposals will enable the police to operate more effectively over a lasting period. It is no secret that a majority of chief constables would have welcomed some additional deterrent powers, for example, a provision enabling a senior officer with a *responsibility for a police area*, at his discretion, to set up in that area properly co-ordinated and supervised checks aimed at the drinking driver at locations and at times where accident statistics would clearly justify such a course of action.

This, I suggest, would be far removed from giving unqualified power to each and every constable to carry out tests as and where he chooses and without good reason, in other words at random. But it seems that the decision in this area has been taken and it is not for police to enter the political arena.

One aspect of the Bill which the police view with grave misgivings, which my association has passed on by way of letter to the Home Secretary, is the section which will exclude an officer from requiring *a specimen of breath* "while the constable is a trespasser in a place from which that person is entitled to exclude him". Such provision will effectively extend the sanctity of an Englishman's home to an absurd degree, lining the pockets of the lawyers into the bargain for the scope for legal debate will be limitless.

If the clause becomes law a suspect driver impaired through drink, perhaps being pursued by police after a non-stop accident, will be able to avoid the consequences of his actions by taking refuge, for example, at his golf club, in his warehouse or even in his field if he *happens to own one*. Surely the matter of police intrusion *on* personal liberty in this regard could be left to the wisdom of her Majesty's judges rather than providing statutory encouragement for an impaired driver to race for the nearest haven, probably endangering himself and other road users in the process.

The findings of the recently published *Sunday Times* opinion poll (December 28, 1980) merely confirm my belief, shared by many of my colleagues, that a very large percentage of the motoring public, all too well aware of their chances of being involved as an innocent party in an accident, are now anxious to improve their prospects of survival by strengthening the powers of the police in such a way that they are able to deal more effectively with the motorist whose ability to drive is impaired through drink.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER BIRCH, Chief Constable,
Honorary Secretary, Traffic Committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers,
Chief Constable's Office,
PO Box No 4,
Leek Wootton, Warwick.

The Pope in Britain

From the Reverend A. P. Baker and others

Sir, The basic question at issue with regard to the proposed visit of the Pope to Canterbury is the doctrine enshrined in the Roman Catholic Mass. The saying of such a Mass in Canterbury Cathedral would, we are advised by counsel, constitute an ecclesiastical offence.

We may safely presume that neither the Archbishop of Canterbury nor the Dean would be party to a breach of the law, and therefore the question, raised in *The Times* Diary (December 23), of whether the Pope will be invited to say Mass in the Cathedral cannot in fact arise.

Yours faithfully,
TONY BAKER, Chairman,
Latimer House,
Oxford.
JOHN PEARCE, Chairman,
Church Society,
D. N. SAMUEL, General Secretary,
Protestant Reformation Society,
East Ravendale Rectory,
Grimsby,
South Humberside.

Hot under collar

From Mr Ivan Mason

Sir, In the good days when Mr Harold Macmillan was in Downing Street and there was a Naval Outfitters in Old Bond Street, many *of us wore a stiff white collar every* working day.

But even then it was expensive and sometimes difficult to get one's collar properly laundered, but in Bond Street one could buy a supply of excellent paper ones matching the best of Irish linen.

These could be reversed on the second day and then used as fire lighters.

Yours, etc,
IVAN MASON,
Broad Water,
Thorpeness,
Suffolk.

Clear as a bell

From Mr John Gent

Sir, It would be wrong for RSM Brittain (obituary, January 12) to be remembered as the man with loudest voice in the British Army.

He certainly had a voice which carried, distinctly, over long distances, but this was due to a peculiar bell-like quality which his voice possessed, which gave it a melodious resonance which could be heard from afar. He was the only man I ever met to whom the phrase "a voice like a bell" was appropriate.

Yours etc,
JOHN GENT,
37 Woodlands Road,
Bishop Auckland,
County Durham.

Ms Harriet Harman

A letter about the recent contempt case brought by the Home Office against the National Council for Civil Liberties' legal officer, Ms Harriet Harman, referred to a "deliberate" breach of undertaking by her. Ms Harman points out, and we accept, that this was inaccurate. Her good faith was never questioned by the Home Office or by the judge, and there was never a deliberate breach of any undertaking or of a professional obligation. We are glad to apologize to Ms Harman for this inaccuracy and regret any embarrassment this mistake may have caused her.

Farewell to Blackwood's

From Mrs F. R. Leavis

Sir, The farewell to "*Maga*" in today's *Times* (January 8) is unjust in stating that its editors were "uncomfortable with women", and wrong in asserting that George Eliot was the only distinguished woman writer that *Blackwood's Magazine* attracted. It not only published Mrs Oliphant's masterly novel *Miss Marjoribanks* as a serial and many other of her fictional works but also sponsored the career of this remarkable woman "as a sort of general utility woman in the Magazine" from her middle twenties onwards, as she says in the *Annals of a Publishing House* she wrote for them. She contributed over 200 articles on literary subjects to "*Maga*".

The family certainly appreciated the talents of this leading woman of letters of the Victorian Age (George Eliot being the leading woman *novelist, rather*): in 1870 John Blackwood wrote: "The scene was like a drama. Mrs Oliphant up here. Col Lockhart and Lewes both talking first class with her, and I for some time downstairs speaking with George Eliot." A handsome obituary notice appeared in "*Maga*" for her in 1897, which claimed for Mrs Oliphant "the proud title of the most accomplished periodical writer of the day".

Yours etc,
Q. D. LEAVIS,
12 Bulstrode Gardens, Cambridge.

Threat to Cornish woods

From Mr C. F. Rawnsley

Sir, As the organizer and, for its first four years, Director of the National Trust's coastal conservation project which I named Enterprise Neptune, and as one who has known the Helford River for more than 60 years, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to substitute conifer plantations for the natural deciduous growth on Calamansack Point (report, December 29).

The haunting charm of this, in common with other Cornish estuaries, is in no small measure due to the characteristic canopy of almost impenetrable scrub oak which has covered its banks probably since vegetation first took hold after the last ice age.

The 40 acres of Calamansack Woods are an important section of this canopy, situated as they are on a conspicuous promontory at the seaward end of the undeveloped stretches of the river. A change in any part of those woods to an alien crop of conifers would irreparably alter the character of the landscape and might well prove the thin end of the wedge for the exploitation of the banks by other riparian landowners.

The argument that in recent years the woods have been overcropped and need the protection which stands of conifers could provide does not bear examination. They have lain in their natural self-wasting and self-perpetuating state entirely undisturbed since the turn of the century.

Conifers, far from providing protection, would prove the first casualties to the gales sweeping in from the Atlantic. Memories of the havoc wrought by an exceptional storm a few years ago in the conifer plantations in *many parts are too recent* to have been forgotten. Besides, conifer stands involve at regular intervals clear felling and replanting and during the period before the new crop has grown up the land presents a forlorn and derelict appearance.

It is to be earnestly hoped that permanent protection will be given to the Calamansack Woods.

Yours faithfully,
CONRAD RAWNSLEY,
Millhouse,
Halfway Bridge,
Near Petworth, West Sussex.

Gold in the nose

From Mr A. J. Apt

Sir, In your leader today (January 8) on cosmetic surgery, you refer to the gold nose of the Danish astronomer, Tycho Brahe. In fact, however, the prosthesis was most early described as being of gold and silver, and it is clear from portraits that it was merely the bridge, not the whole nose.

Furthermore, it is reported that when Tycho was exhumed, in 1901, it was found that there was a bright green stain on a scar near the nasal opening of the skull. (The prosthesis itself had vanished.) It was therefore concluded that Tycho's "nose" actually consisted of an alloy of copper, gold, and silver, and that Tycho was not simply being ostentatious, but was trying to achieve a flesh tone.

If we may judge from his quick temper, he was probably a rather florid gentleman.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM J. APT,
St Catherine's College,
Oxford.
January 8.



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 13. Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Miss Jane Egerton-Warburton at the Requiem Memorial Mass for Mrs Andrew Kerr which was held at the Brompton Oratory this morning.

The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Pioneer Corps, received General Sir Hugh Beach on relinquishing the appointment of Colonel Commandant and Lieutenant General Sir George Cooper on assuming the appointment.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Arnold Haskell will be held at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, on Wednesday, February 25, 1981, at noon.

Birthdays today

Professor Sir Melville Arnott, 72; Mr Richard Briers, 47; Baroness Brooke of Ystradfellte, 73; Lord Catto, 58; Sir Neil Pritchard, 70; Sir Percy Rugg, 75; Dr Solomon Wand, 82.

Today's engagements

The Duke of Kent, as president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, attends meeting to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the association, Royal Society, 5.25
Lectures: Claude and his English followers, National Gallery, 1; The New York School, Tate Gallery, 1.
Lunchtime music: Andrew Ball, piano, St Olave's, Hart Street, 1.05; Lucia Muza, organ, St Bride's Fleet Street, 1.15 pm; Barbara Farrington, soprano, Elliott Ware, piano, Holy Sepulchre, Holborn Viaduct, 1.15.
Walk: British public houses, meet Bond Street station, 7.30.
Exhibition: Art from playgroup to foundation, Norwich School of Art, St George's Street, Norwich, 10-5.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Lord Rockley to be a trustee of the National Portrait Gallery.
Mr Richard Rogers to be a trustee of the Tate Gallery.
Mr Peter Davies to be deputy director of Northern Arts.
Mr John Allison, leader of West Glamorgan County Council, and Mr John Franklin, managing director of Powell Duffryn, to be deputy chairmen of the Development Corporation for Wales.

Latest wills

Hilda Mary Colbert, of Hove, East Sussex, left estate valued at £82,909 net. After a personal bequest of £500 she left the residue to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.
Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Brewster, Captain Kenneth Woodhouse, of Eastbourne .. £142,508
Daggett, Mr William Ingledew, of Westminster, ear, nose and throat specialist £197,374
Dawson, Mr Charles Dermot Rangdale, of Cobham, Surrey £144,170
Goodman, Mr George Edward, of Alcester, Warwickshire, intestate £227,953
Hamlyn, Mrs Marie Louise, of Chelsea £134,823
Hazell, Miss Betty Tomlin, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire £420,460
Hill-Cole, Miss Josephine Helen May Frederica, of Bournemouth £255,495
Ireland, Mr Harry, of Silloth, Carlisle £305,885
Johnston, Mrs Phyllis Edith, of Enfield, London £147,150
Ratcliff, Mr Ernest Arthur, of Woodham Mortimer, Essex, farmer £635,027
Reeves, Josephine Margaret, of Kensington, London .. £361,355
Scott, Janet Craigie, of Tunbridge Wells £127,565

Correction

Dr G. A. B. Shelton, co-author of a paper on zoology referred to in Science report on January 8, is in the Department of Zoology at Oxford University, not Cambridge.

Forthcoming marriages

Don Martin Cullen and the Hon Harriet Berry
The engagement is announced between Martin, elder son of Don Martin Cullen and Doña Mercedes Artayeta, of Buenos Aires, and Harriet, elder daughter of Lord and Lady Hartwell, of Oving House, Aylesbury.

Major C. Fletcher-Wood, RA, and Miss V. M. Hugill
The engagement is announced between Clive, only son of the late Major H. Fletcher-Wood and Mrs S. F. Sly, and Victoria Mary, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Antony Hugill.

Mr A. H. M. Marcus and Miss C. A. Oxley
The engagement is announced between Anthony, only son of the late Mr and Mrs E. V. Marcus, and Candice, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. H. Oxley, of Farewells, Hawkley, Liss, Hants.

Mr A. C. Turner and Miss J. H. Minker
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs R. Turner, of Bramhope, Leeds, West Yorkshire, and Janice, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Minker, of Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Mr D. G. Coleridge and Miss N. J. White
The engagement is announced between David, second son of Mr and Mrs A. D. Coleridge, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, and Naomi, second daughter of Dr and Mrs H. V. White, of Maidstone, Kent.

Mr W. G. Hay and Miss S. M. Elias
The engagement is announced between Gordon, son of the late Dr W. E. Hay and of Mrs E. Hay, of Jesmond, Newcastle, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs S. H. D. Elias, of Singapore.

Mr J. P. Parry-Crooke and Miss V. M. Gini
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr D. J. Parry-Crooke, of Folkestone, and Mrs Alan James, of 78 Gloucester Place, London W1, and Vivienne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs N. Gini, of Woodhouse Avenue, Karori, Wellington, New Zealand.

Mr W. G. Tyser and Miss W. E. Balck-Foote
The engagement is announced between William, only son of Dr and Mrs P. A. Tyser, of the Manor House, Lodsworth, Sussex, and Wendy, second daughter of Mr and Mrs C. A. Balck-Foote, of Pinewood, Stockcross, Berkshire.

Mr P. B. Davies and Miss C. H. A. Hall
The engagement is announced between Peter Brian, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Davies, of Barnfield Cottage, Waldron, Heathfield, Sussex, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr David Hall, of 81 Rivermead Court, Hurlingham, and Mrs Julian Wellesley, of Tidebrook Manor, Wadhurst, Sussex.

Mr M. O. F. Hill and Miss P. M. G. Duckham
The engagement is announced between Matthew, youngest son of the late Mr Francis Hill and of Mrs Hill, of Pwll Farm, Newport, Dyfed, and Penelope, elder daughter of the late Mr Michael Duckham and of Mrs Duckham, of Barcombe Place, Barcombe, Sussex.

Mr D. E. L. Pearson and Miss J. M. Edlin
The engagement is announced between Derek, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D. Pearson, of Mitcham, Surrey, and Joanna Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs M. A. Edlin, of Sutton, Surrey.

Mr D. E. Widley and Mrs T. M. McDowall
The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Mr and Mrs A. B. Widley, and Theresa Marian, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. J. Carroll, of Stoke, Plymouth.

Mr C. P. de Burgh and Fraulein H. Herrmann
The engagement is announced between Charles Patrick, son of Colonel and Mrs P. R. R. de Burgh, of St Joan a Gore House, West Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire, and Hildegard, daughter of Herr and Frau Karl Heinrich Herrmann, of Biberach/Baden, West Germany.

Mr H. R. M. L. Levy and Miss J. N. Adam
The engagement is announced between Henry, youngest son of Mr and Mrs F. Levy, of London, NW3, and Nicky, younger daughter of the late Mr P. Adam and of Mrs Adam, of Crookham, near Newbury, Berkshire.

Mr A. B. Todd and Miss R. S. Jeronimus
The engagement is announced between Andrew Benjamin, younger son of Mrs Todd and the late Mr W. G. Todd, of Wimbledon, and Renée Stéfanie, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. J. Jeronimus, of East Horsley, Surrey.

Mr M. H. Yeats and Miss R. Chapman
The engagement is announced between Mark Harsant, son of Mr and Mrs R. W. R. Yeats, of Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey, and Bryony, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R. S. Chapman, of Ashtead, Surrey.

Luncheons

HM Government
The Hon Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon held at 1 Carlton Gardens yesterday in honour of the High Commissioner for the Gambia.

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary
Sir James Crane, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, presided at the annual reunion luncheon of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary held at New Scotland Yard yesterday. The principal guest was Mr William Whitelaw, Secretary of State for the Home Department. Also present were: [illegible]

Dinner

Lady Mayoress
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress entertained the Court of Aldermen, the Sheriffs and the High Officers of the Corporation of London, with their ladies, at dinner at the Mansion House last night.

Memorial requiem Mass

Mrs A. Kerr
Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Miss Jane Egerton-Warburton at a memorial requiem Mass for Mrs Andrew Kerr concelebrated by Father Joseph Christie, SJ, and Father Ronald Creighton-Jobe at Brompton Oratory yesterday. The Marquess of Lothian and Lord John Kerr (sons) read the lessons. Among others present were:
The Marchioness of Lothian and Lady John Kerr (daughters-in-law), the Earl of Ancram, Lord and Lady Ralph Kerr, Mr Donald and Lady Cecil Cameron, the Countess of Euston, Lady Elizabeth Kerr and Mr Charles von Westenholz (grandchildren), Lady Louise and Lady Emily FitzRoy and Catherine and Donald Andrew Cameron (great grandchildren), Mrs Philip Kerr (sister-in-law), Mr William Kerr, Group Captain and Mrs Guy Devas, Mr and Mrs William Channing, Miss A. Channing, Miss Rosemary Kerr.
The Countess of Lisburne, the Countess of Craven, Major-General Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard, Viscount and Viscountess Tamworth, Lady Rachel Pepys, Lady Ann Tarassenko, Lord Vernon, Lady Elton, Lady Killearn, the Hon Mrs Douglas Woodruff, Sir Richard Cave, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller, Brigadier Sir Geoffrey and Lady Hardy-Roberts, Sir Philip and the Hon Lady de Zulueta, Mr Gerald and Lady Marigold Jamieson, Mr M. J. Hussey, Mr and Mrs Henry Nevile, Mrs R. Neame, Miss Sandra Butter, Mr Norman St John-Stevas, MP, Major-General and Mrs Philip Tower, Mrs Edward Pryor, Mrs Hugo Meynell, Captain Hugo Meynell, Mr and the Hon Mrs George Seymour, Brigadier John Drummond, Comte Alexander d Saint Phalle and Mme M. A. de La Torre, Baron and Baronne R. d'Ussel, Comtesse de Tremereuc.
Mr and Mrs J. Coolidge, Mr Cuthbert FitzHerbert, Mr and Mrs Mark Dorman, Mrs Martin Drury, Mr Peter D. Canadine, Mrs Charles Nevile, Miss [illegible] Mr Roger Craster, Mr C. R. Morgan, Mr Peter Drummond, Mr V. C. Buckley, Mrs P. E. Macewen, Mrs C. Harrison, Mr and Mrs L. Nester-Smith, Mrs Griffith Kewley and Mr John Kinmont.

Memorial service

Professor J. D. B. Mitchell
A memorial service for Professor John D. B. Mitchell was held yesterday at the Kirk of Greyfriars, Edinburgh. The Rev Ewen Maclean, the Rev Fergus A. Smith, the Rev Dr R. Stuart Louden, who read the lesson, the Very Rev Professor John McIntyre, of Edinburgh University, who gave an address, and the Right Rev Dr W. B. Johnston, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, who pronounced the blessing, took part in the service. Among others present were:
Mrs Mitchell (widow), Miss K. M. Mitchell and Mrs E. A. Walsh (daughters), Major and Mrs G. S. Nickerson, Mr H. Nickerson, Mrs C. F. Rouse.
Dr John Burnett (Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University); Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord and Lady Cameron, Lord Mackenzie Stuart, Lord Emslie, Sir Michael and Lady Swann, Lord Murray, Lord Dunpark, Lord Stewart, Sir James and Lady Marjoribanks, Professor Sir Frederick Stewart, Professor Sir Alastair Currie, Sir Michael Palliser, Sir Kerr Fraser, Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, MP, Mr P. Allsop, Professor A. M. Donner, Professor F. E. Dowrick, Professor G. Romanes, Mr David Edward, QC, and Mr and Mrs I. E. F. Hope.

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, Jan 13, 1956

Scarcity of miners

From Our Labour Correspondent
Manpower was the first problem facing the coal industry, Sir Hubert Houldsworth, chairman of the National Coal Board, said yesterday in a review of last year's operations. The north-eastern, west Midlands and parts of the south-western divisions were the principal areas of shortage, he said. There were vacancies for about 13,000 men, and even if these were filled the *demand for manpower would* continue in the expanding areas. The three divisions mentioned are those in which there was a serious loss of manpower last year.

Eton College

Eton College opens today for the Lent Half. There are 96 new boys. T. J. E. Brereton, KS, is captain of the school and B. N. Swire, OS, is captain of the Oppidans.

Mr J. G. L. Nichols has taken over his house. Long leave will be from February 20 to 23 and there will be services of confirmation in college chapel conducted by the Bishop of Buckingham on March 14 and 15. School closes on March 25.

Wrekin College

Lent Term began yesterday and ends on March 20, the half-term exeat being from February 13 to 17. Michael Greaves is head of school. The choral society will perform Handel's *Messiah* on Friday, March 6.

St Elphin's School, Matlock

Spring Term begins today. Half term is from February 13-18. Scholarship examinations take place on March 2 and 3, and there will be two services of confirmation by the Bishop of Warrington on March 15 and by the Bishop of Derby on March 22. Term ends on March 26.

Westminster School

Lent Term at Westminster School began yesterday. There are 662 members of the school, 549 in the Great School and 113 in the Under School. T. N. L. Custance (Dryden's) is captain of the school and P. G. Vatistas is praefectus. The Tizard Lecture on Tuesday, February 24, at 5.45 pm will be given by Professor Sir Hans Kornberg. The school concert is at St Margaret's, Westminster, on Monday, March 16, and the Great School term ends on Saturday, March 21.

St John's School, Leatherhead

Lent Term begins today with 442 boys in the school. The school captain is A. L. D. Freeman, and the deputy school captain is P. A. Templeman. The competition for the Bruinvels Trophies will be on Saturday, February 14. The confirmation service will be conducted by the Bishop of Dorking on Saturday, February 28, at 2.30 pm and the term will end on Thursday, March 26.

Harrogate College

Harrogate College reopened today for the Spring Term. Louise Benson is head of school. Term ends on Wednesday, April 1, and *half-term is from* February 19-24.

Queenswood School

Spring Term *begins today with* Sarah Streete as head girl and Rosemary Icke at school captain. Half Term will be from Thursday, February 19, until Monday, February 23. There will be a choral concert on Sunday, March 15, and term ends on Wednesday, March 25.

Kent College, Canterbury

Term starts today and ends on Friday, April 3. There are 395 boys and 151 girls in the school. David Eades continues as head prefect and as captain of hockey. The entrance examination for boarding and day pupils takes place on Wednesday, February 11. The Frank Mason Hockey Tournament will take place at the school on Thursday, March 19, and the East Kent 6th Form Conference on Monday, March 23.

Richmond School and Tutorial College

Lent Term begins today. Richard Bates is captain of school and Linley Weir head girl. Founder's Day is on January 26 and term ends on April 10.

Secret 1945 plans for germ bombs revealed

By David Nicholson-Lord

The use of deadly anthrax bombs on German cities figured in Allied military thinking at the end of the Second World War, according to secret Cabinet documents released yesterday.

The documents, relating to a report on the potential of biological warfare during the next 10 years and written in November, 1945, show that a plant had been built in America capable within eight months of producing enough "cluster" bombs containing anthrax spores for saturation bombing of six German cities.

Simultaneous attacks on the six cities, it says, would result in half the inhabitants being killed by inhalation and many more through subsequent contamination of the skin. The weapon capable of that was in initial stages of production and was "designed for strategic bombing as a reprisal".

The documents, from the Public Record Office, were released by the National Society for Crime Reduction and Social Justice, a group backed by the Church of Scientology, as part of its campaign against chemical and biological warfare weapons.

EEC moves on cut-price milk rebuffed

By Hugh Clayton

The British Government yesterday rebuffed an attempt by the European Commission to abolish rules that prevent cut-price milk being imported from France.

A letter signed by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was sent to the Commission in Brussels. It was a belated reply to a challenge issued in Brussels in mid-November.

The commission asked the British Government to show why it should not be taken to the European Court of Justice for operating trade barriers against milk.

The rules call for milk entering Britain to be heat-treated and packed at approved premises in this country. Mr Walker has told the Commission that the rule is a legitimate health precautions consistent with the Treaty of Rome.

OBITUARY

MR FINN GUNDELACH

Work for agriculture in the EEC

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, one of the five Vice-Presidents of the European Commission, died suddenly yesterday in Strasbourg where he had been attending a session of the European Parliament. He was 55.

Before joining the commission in 1973, Gundelach had had a distinguished career in the Danish diplomatic service which culminated in his appointment as his country's ambassador to the EEC in 1967. In this capacity he played a key rôle in negotiating the terms of Denmark's entry to the community on January 1, 1973.

He was a natural choice to become Denmark's first European Commissioner. His first job was the management of the EEC's internal market, presiding over the dismantling of residual barriers to trade, an important but somewhat abstruse field in which he earned a reputation for competence, but was less in the limelight than some other commissioners with more glamorous portfolios.

In 1976 Gundelach was thrust into prominence by the illness of Sir Christopher (now Lord) Soames, the Commissioner in charge of External Relations. From him he took over responsibility for fisheries policy and became involved in delicate and at times controversial negotiations with Iceland.

In the new European Commission which came into office in January 1977 under the presidency of Mr Roy Jenkins, Gundelach was promoted to Vice-President and given charge of the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy, in many ways the most important job in the Commission. He also retained responsibility for fisheries. He quickly established himself as one of the major figures on the European scene, widely respected for his technical virtuosity and mastery of a notoriously complex brief. He drove himself relentlessly, and did not spare his subordinates who sometimes found him a difficult master.

As Agriculture Commissioner, Gundelach sought to maintain a better balance between the interests of consumers and farmers than many of his predecessors. During the last year of his life there were signs that he was beginning to have some success in persuading member states of the need to reduce food surpluses by reform of the existing system of unqualified price support.

Always a staunch defender of the basic principle of the Common Agricultural Policy, Gundelach none the less consistently argued that farmers could not realistically expect the EEC to continue paying guaranteed prices for an unlimited quantity of production without regard to the capacity of the market to absorb it.

Appointed to serve another four-year term as Agriculture Commissioner under the Presidency of Mr Gaston Thorn, who replaced Mr Roy Jenkins earlier this month, Gundelach would undoubtedly have played a leading role with the new President, and Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the budget commissioner, in the preparation of the proposals for reform of the EEC's finances which the Commission has been asked by member states to produce by June.

Born on April 25, 1925, in Vejle, Finn Olav Gundelach was educated at the University of Aarhus where he took a degree in economics and became vice president of the National Union of Students. Upon graduation he went straight into the Foreign Ministry and within five years had been appointed Denmark's permanent representative at the United Nations in Geneva, a post he held for five years.

In 1959 he left the foreign service to become a senior official in the Geneva-based multinational secretariat responsible for operating the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and was closely involved in the Kennedy Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Gundelach leaves two children, and a widow from whom he had been estranged for some years.

MR QUINTIN RILEY

The Rt Rev Launcelot Fleming writes:

Quintin Riley who, at the age of 75, was killed in a motor accident on Christmas Day was one of a handful of polar explorers to have been awarded the Polar Medal with both Arctic and Antarctic clasps.

Shortly after graduating from Pembroke College, Cambridge, he joined the British Arctic Air Route Expedition of 1931-32. The following year he went back to Greenland with the same leader Gino Watkins.

Riley then went South with the British Graham Land Expedition from 1934 to 1937 under one of his former Greenland companions John Rymill. He claimed that he joined this expedition because he liked housekeeping, and indeed the way he administered the stores contributed to the success of the expedition and the well being of its members, but he was also an experienced sailor and dog-driver. He regaled his companions with a fund of stories and an inexhaustible capacity for argument which revealed many assumed prejudices. A year after his return from the Antarctic he joined the RNVR—and served throughout the war in a variety of adventurous commando-type or intelligence appointments—in the Russian-Finnish war and the Norwegian campaign, at the Salerno landings and subsequently in Ceylon, France and Germany.

Riley was the youngest son of that eminent Anglo-Catholic layman Athelstan Riley. For fifteen years he was a member first of the Church Assembly and then the General Synod. He took an active part in the Church life of the parishes in Essex where he and his wife Dorothy lived. He also served some years on the Essex County Council and the Braintree Rural District Council. He was chairman of a home for maladjusted boys and governor of several schools. He will be remembered with affection by his many polar, naval and Essex friends as a tremendous character—, opinionated on most subjects, provocative on some—and as a man of faith, courage and dedicated loyalty.

GEN SIR RODERICK McLEOD

M.R.D.F. writes:

Might a few more personal words be added to your accurate but rather chill account of General McLeod? Behind his trim figure and forbidding manner he kept a keen sense of humour, a sharp brain, and a very warm heart as well as tremendous character.

The Special Air Service brigade he commanded in 1944-45 was another international brigade, quite as anti-fascist as the ones that fought in the Spanish civil war, but this time devoid of communist influence. Austrians, Belgians, British, French, Germans, Irish, a Pole, Spaniards and Yugoslavs fought in it. It provided the steel core for French and Belgian resistance, wherever opportunity offered, after D-day.

In the planning stage McLeod dealt fairly and firmly with some brilliant amateurs from the desert who thought they understood irregular war better than he did; and he gave the whole brigade quiet confidence that, dangerous though the tasks would be on which we were sent, they would none of them be impossible or absurd. He took part briefly himself in the highly successful SAS foray into Brittany, leading from in front, and inspired the affection as well as the admiration of everyone who worked for him.

SIR JULES THORN

Lord Roskill writes:

Your obituary of Sir Jules Thorn made no mention of his close connexion with the Middle Temple and of his great generosity to that inn.

May I as the present treasurer add some words on that score? It was he who some 15 years ago gave the new lighting for our famous hall and thus vastly enhanced its beauty as those of us who use that hall regularly know. He became an honorary Bencher of the Inn in 1969. Thereupon he became a most regular and welcome guest at our dinners and Sunday lunches. His charm and his modesty endeared him to everyone whom he met.

Then suddenly just over a year ago he became our third great benefactor in this century, following in this respect the first Lord Rothermere and Sir John Astbury. He gave us a magnificent sum for scholarships for the young. The gift was made without restriction. He believed in the law. He knew that law was the foundation of society and he was determined to see so far as lay in his power that resources should not be lacking for student members of the inn to become practising members of the Bar.

Thus he has left with us these two great memorials and his generosity will remain a byword for years to come, even among those who never had the privilege of his friendship. To Lady Thorn and his daughter we offer our deep sympathy, together with our gratitude for all that he meant to us in the Middle Temple.

MR E. A. DUNLOP

Mr Edward Arunah Dunlop, OBE, GM, CC, president of the Toronto Sun Publishing Corporation and a director of the United Press of Canada, died on January 6. He was 61. His death came only two months after he had been admitted to the Order of Canada for services to the country. He was made OBE after the Second World War and also awarded the George Medal for a brave attempt to protect other soldiers from a grenade explosion which claimed his sight and part of his right hand. He was then serving as an officer in the Queen's Own Rifles Militia Unit.

He was active on many committees concerned with the disabled and also served on the Federal Board of Broadcast Governors from 1958 to 1963. From 1963 to 1971 he served in the Ontario Legislature as a Progressive-Conservative.

He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Science report

Botany: Parasitism in lichens

By the Staff of *Nature*

Lichens, which encrust tree trunks, buildings, rocks and many other exposed surfaces, may seem strange members of the plant world, and botanists have long been curious to understand their true nature. Much of their curiosity has been directed at the relationship between the alga and the fungus which live together to form a lichen.

Although generally considered to be to the mutual advantage of both partners, the relationship may not be quite as it seems. Now two biologists in Worcester, Massachusetts, studying the development of lichens in the laboratory, have concluded that, at least for one species, the fungus is a parasite, the attack of which the alga is able to control.

Dr V. Ahmadjian, of Clark University, and Dr J. B. Jacobs, of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, started with the lichen known as *Cladonia cristatella*, or British soldiers. They separated the algal and fungal partners, then put them together again and studied the redevelopment of the relationship. They also cultured the fungal partner with various algae obtained from other lichens, to see whether they would form partnerships not usually found in nature, synthetic lichens as they termed them.

They found that the fungus formed a lichen partnership with four species of alga as well as with its natural partner, *Trebouxia erici*, entwining the algal cells and penetrating them with its specialized branches. *The four species* that were compatible in synthetic partnerships were all closely related to *Trebouxia erici*.

On the other hand, the same fungus parasitized and killed various algae more distantly related to *Trebouxia erici*. In those cases the first contact and the entwining of alga by fungus seemed to proceed as though the two were compatible. But then the fungal branches penetrated the alga too thoroughly for the latter to survive. Those results suggest to the two biologists that the relationship which develops depends on the ability of the alga to resist being parasitized.

They conclude that the natural relationship in *Cladonia cristatella* is controlled parasitism rather than a case of mutual advantage. The fungus apparently penetrates and kills a high proportion of the algal cells in the lichen and seems to be behaving as a parasite. Dr Ahmadjian and Dr Jacobs think the balance may be maintained by *proliferation of* the algal cells. Further studies of natural and synthetic lichens should should provide more insights into the nature of the relationship.

Source: *Nature*, January 15 (vol 289, 169), 1981.

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Leaders content with draws in Hastings chess

From Chess Correspondent
Hastings

Once again the leaders in the ICL Grandmaster Tournament in Hastings were content to coast along yesterday with early draws, so that the position at the top remained unchanged at the end of the fourteenth round.

The game between the two leaders, Andersson and Torre, ended in a draw in 14 moves and shortly afterwards Alburt and Lein likewise agreed a draw in 24 moves.

There was much more fight in the interesting encounter between Sunye and Paul Littlewood. The English master attacked strongly, but his position somewhat deteriorated during a time scramble and on adjournment the game looked a likely draw.

The scores at the end of round 14 were:

[illegible]

Church news

Bishop of Worcester to retire

The Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Robert Woods, announced yesterday that he will retire in October.

Latest appointments include:
The Rev R. P. Pott, Vicar of Heacham, Kings Lynn, diocese of Norwich, to be also Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral.
The Rev D. C. Ritchie, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Bradford-on-Avon, and Rural Dean of Bradford-on-Avon, diocese of Salisbury, to be Vicar of Winsley and continuing as Rural Dean of Bradford-on-Avon, same diocese.
The Rev J. B. Rowsell, Vicar of Haslingfield and Rector of Harlton, diocese of Ely, to be Vicar of Methwold, diocese of Norwich.
The Rev D. E. Tansill, Vicar of Billingshurst and Rural Dean of Horsham, diocese of Chichester, to be also Canon and Prebendary of Chichester Cathedral.
The Rev C. B. Underwood, Vicar of Twyning, diocese of Gloucester, to be also Rural Dean of Tewkesbury same diocese.
The Rev J. W. M. Vyse, Vicar of Aylsham and Rural Dean of Ingworth, diocese of Norwich, to be also Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral.
The Rev A. Wakefield, Team Vicar of St Francis, Clifton, Nottingham, diocese of Southwell, to be Vicar of St John the Baptist, Bilborough, Nottingham, same diocese.
The Rev A. C. Willmer, Rector of North Chapel and Ebernoe, diocese of Chichester, to be also Canon and Prebendary of Chichester Cathedral.

Resignation
The Rev D. E. Rawlings, curate in charge of the CD of Owton Manor, Hartlepool, diocese of Durham, April 30.

University news

Oxford
The members of the governing body of St John's College have declared their intention to elect Sir John Kendrew, FRS, as president of the college on the retirement of Sir Richard Southern, on September 30.
Mr Bryan R. Ward-Perkins, MA, tutor at Exeter University, has been elected to a tutorial fellowship in modern history at Trinity College.

Wales
Honorary degrees will be awarded to the following: [illegible]

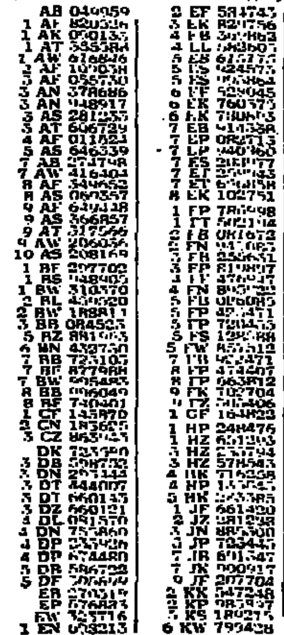
Birmingham
Dr P. Hanson has been appointed to [illegible] in Soviet economics and Dr J. R. A. England a reader in nuclear physics.

Sussex
Grants
Science Research Council: £90,850 for study of synthesis and evaluation of enzyme-like catalysts, under direction of Sir John Cornforth, FRS; £66,444 for laser study of intermolecular forces, under direction of Dr A. J. McCaffery; £387,207 to Professor N. S. Sutherland for research into computational modelling of human cognition; £74,078 for studies on the variations [illegible] turbulence characteristics [illegible] heat transfer rates [illegible] blade sections, under Professor F. J. Bayley; [illegible] studies of transient heat [illegible] in rotating cavities, [illegible] of Dr J. M. Owen. [illegible] Overseas Development: [illegible] research into the mechanism of [illegible] tolerance in rice, under [illegible] T. J. Flowers.

Honorary degrees are to be conferred on the following: [illegible] Geoffrey Allen, Mr J. [illegible] Christodoulou, Professor [illegible] Professor Barbara Hardy, [illegible] Lord Perry of [illegible] Shaw, Lord Shinwell, [illegible] and Sir Huw [illegible] S. Baxendale, Mr C. L. Dobson, Mr R. H. Gray, Mr G. [illegible] Thelma Holt, Lady [illegible] Mr T. Measham, Mr [illegible] Air Commodore J. R. [illegible] Pegg, Mr J. Pirie, [illegible] and Mr A. Smith.

£1,000 Premium Bond winners

The £1,000 winners in the January premium bonds draw are:



[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	14 XL 311809
								14 XL 559193
								15 XZ 220437
								3 YS 563156
								4 YB 387468
								6 YP 234915
								7 YW 024194
								7 YZ 992265
								8 YL 708026
								9 YN 141469
								9 YZ 492531
								10 YL 199028
								11 YK 120819
								11 YS 823304
								11 YZ 330188
								12 YB 061050
								12 YW 976300
								12 YZ 621718
								13 YP 208218
								13 YP 942760
								13 YT 389809
								1 ZF 766998
								2 ZK 781637
								3 ZP 844926
								4 ZZ 849731
								5 ZP 756944
								7 ZZ 103244
								8 ZN 258904
								9 ZB 046946
								9 ZZ 008475
								11 ZN 799455
								11 ZT 206530
								11 ZZ 673940
								12 ZK 417735
								13 ZP 988250
								13 ZB 519268
								13 ZK 140188
								14 ZB 490209
								14 ZK 074666
								15 ZB 355327
								15 ZB 464264
								15 ZP 662995
								16 ZK 312970
								16 ZW 356601
								16 ZZ 203874
								18 ZF 591135
								19 ZT 356924
								19 ZZ 181849
								20 ZF [illegible]
								20 ZF 485900
								20 ZZ 508496
								21 ZS 564077
								21 ZT 064100
								22 ZT 669855
								23 ZN 840507
								23 ZS 259720
								[illegible]
								25 ZL 553386
								25 ZS 986773

Law Report January 13 1981 — Queen's Bench Division

Taxis cannot charge booking fee

Bassam v Green
Before Lord Justice Donaldson and Mr Justice Forbes

Where a taxi driver, in order to cover his costs in using a taxi service organization, demands a payment in addition to the authorized fare, such payment is part of the fare and accordingly his demand is for a payment in excess of the authorized fare.

The Divisional Court so held in dismissing an appeal by Geoffrey Roy Bassam, taxi driver, of Chigwell, Essex, against his conviction by Mr A. W. Clark, a metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, for offences of demanding and taking more than the proper fare contrary to the London Hackney Carriage Act, 1853, and other statutory provisions.

Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, and Mr Basil Hillman for Mr Bassam; Mr Donald Farquharson, QC, and Miss Jane Gill for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE DONALDSON said that London had had the advantage of licensed hackney carriages or cabs since 1831. One of their features was that they were allowed to ply for hire, but that their fares were strictly controlled. Recently that service had been extended by the equipping of cabs with radios, and the setting up of organizations with which the public could communicate by telephone in order to arrange a journey.

The present appeal raised the question of whether, where a cab was summoned by radio service, the driver could demand an additional sum to cover his expenses in becoming a subscriber to the service. The magistrate had held that Mr Bassam could not do so and convicted him of "demanding" 40 pence and "taking" it contrary to section 17 of the London Hackney Carriage Act, 1853, which provided that it was an offence for a driver to demand or take more than the proper fare, as set out in the authorized fare structure.

A Mr John Melford Stevenson asked the porter of the Garrick Club to call a taxi. The porter *telephoned a taxi service* organization and ordered a taxi and was told by the telephonist that there would be a booking fee of 40 pence. The order was passed by radio to Mr Bassam, who duly answered the call in his licensed hackney carriage and conveyed *Mr Melford Stevenson* to his home in Clapham, where he requested payment. On being asked why he had entered an additional 40 pence by way of extras on the meter, he explained about the booking charge. Mr Melford Stevenson paid under protest and later complained to the police.

Mr Scrivener submitted that the cost of booking a fare was *not* part of the "fare" and that therefore section 17 did not prohibit its demand. That was wrong. Section 17 was not confined to moneys paid in respect of fares. A driver took more than the proper fare not only if he asked for and received an excessive fare, but also if he asked for some supplemental payment which was not a fare.

Mr Scrivener also submitted that the booking fee was not a payment made in respect of the hiring of the cab under section 6 of the London Cab and Stage Carriage Act, 1907, which provided that "fare" included any payment in *respect of the hire of a cab. He* said that there was an agreement with the radio service made prior to the hiring, and that the fee was a payment for the service of finding a cab.

That was not so. The time of the ageement had no bearing on the matter, and the payment was made to the driver and not to the radio service. It was an agreement with the driver through the agency of the service. As a matter of common sense the 40 pence was paid in respect of the hire. It was part and parcel of the hiring of the cab. So on that ground, too, section 17 applied and an offence was committed.

It was also submitted that a licensed hackney carriage was permitted to pick up a private customer provided it was not available for public hiring at the time. That was wrong. A London taxi remained a taxi even when taking the driver's family to the seaside or going home after a day's work. No offence was committed if it did not pick up a passenger, but it remained a taxi, otherwise a taxi driver coming in response to a radio call could claim to be operating as a mini cab driver.

Mr Bassam was rightly convicted, but it did not follow that the acceptance of a tip constituted an ofence under section 17. The demand of a tip could constitute an offence, but no offence was committed if the tip was freely offered by the customer. That was not a payment in respect of the hiring, even if the customer was afraid he would incur the driver's displeasure if he did not tip. The custom of tipping could survive the present case.

Mr Justice Forbes agreed.

Solicitors: A. J. Adams & Adams, Hemel Hempstead; Solicitor Metropolitan Police.

3-month limit on power of arrest

To assist in easing the burdens of the police who are holding thousands of orders containing a power of arrest under the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act, 1976, the President of the Family Division has issued a Practice Note reminding judges that Practice Note ([1978] 1 WLR 1123) recommended that consideration should be given to imposing a time limit of three months on injunctions excluding a party from a matrimonial home or a specified area.

Experience has shown that the *police are rarely called upon to* take action upon an injunction which is more than three months old, and the requirement that the police should retain indefinitely the orders which contain a power of arrest imposes an unnecessary burden on them.

Judges should consider at the time a power of arrest is attached to an injunction for what period of time the sanction of arrest is likely to be required. Unless a judge is satisfied that a longer period is necessary in a particular case the period should not exceed three months. In the few cases where danger to the applicant is still reasonably apprehended towards the expiry of the three months, application may be made to the court to extend the duration of the injunction.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS



How much of a crisis for exporters? page 17

The high risks of drug manufacturing Page 17

■ **Stock markets**
FT Ind 447.4, down 7.7
FT Gilts 68.39, up 0.08

■ **Sterling**
$ 2.3885, down 100
Index 79.3, unchanged

■ **Dollar**
Index 87.0, up 0.5
DM 2.0003, up 153

■ **Gold**
$564.50, up $2

■ **Money**
3 mth sterling 14¼-14⅛
3 mth Euro $ 19-18¾
6 mth Euro $ 17⅛-17⅜

BP lifts estimate of reserves in Forties field by 200m barrels

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

British Petroleum has increased its estimates of the reserves recoverable from the giant Forties North Sea oil field by 200 million barrels to 2,000 million barrels.

The addition to the reserves is equivalent to the discovery of a new medium-sized field, and at today's prices would produce total gross revenue of $7,850m.

In comparison with total North Sea reserves discovered so far of more than 16,000 million barrels, the reappraisal of Forties is small, but it tends to confirm the impression that oil companies are overly conservative in assessing the size of their discoveries.

The Argyll field, one of the smallest to be developed in the North Sea, has consistently had its reserves upgraded. Its original estimated production was 18 million barrels, but it has already had an output of 35 million barrels.

Other fields have been downgraded, however, and in its review of the development of oil and gas resources in 1980, the Department of Energy slightly reduced its estimates of the eventual recoverable reserves despite a number of new discoveries during the year.

For BP which has spent £1,000m developing Forties, the extra 200 million barrels of recoverable reserves is of considerable importance. Most fields of 50 million barrels and less are now being thought of as being potentially commercial, and a 200 million barrel find is probably a good average size for future discoveries.

BP's Buchan field, which is being developed with the converted Drillmaster rig, has estimated reserves of only 50 million barrels and the Tartan field, which started production at 10,000 barrels a day last week, is estimated to have only the same total reserves as this new addition to Forties.

But where Tartan was developed with a fixed production platform, the extra reserves in Forties may be tapped through undersea wells drilled by semisubmersibles and linked into the present four production platforms. Alternatively it may be exploited by BP's new converted tanker, known as "Swops", the Single Well Operating System, which can both drill and produce.

Ways of tapping the new reserves are still being considered by the production team.

Most recent discoveries in the North Sea have been near to known reserves, but not always as extensions of fields. Many have proved to be separate accumulations.

The British National Oil Corporation has confirmed a discovery which might have recoverable reserves of around 100 million barrels close to the Thistle field, and Hamilton Brothers this week announced a promising discovery close to the Argyll field.

Infill finds of this kind are common in a mature exploration area such as the North Sea, and explain the intense interest shown in the blocks offered by the Department of Energy for licensing in the seventh round in an area where most finds have been made. The companies awarded these blocks agreed to pay an initial £5m for the right to explore, the first time such "key money" has been required.

The rate of discovery in the North Sea still remains high, with one find being made for every nine wells sunk in the final quarter of 1980. But, according to oil consultants Gaffney, Cline and Associates, exploration drilling has not picked up as fast as expected.

The new reserves in the Forties field will increase its life and add to government revenues. BP has 96 per cent of the field with Shell and Esso sharing the remaining 4 per cent equally.

Fraser-Lonrho public fights cost £1m

By Philip Robinson

Sir Hugh Fraser said yesterday that public battles between his House of Fraser and its main shareholder Lonrho have cost the stores group about £1m this year.

The fight at last summer's annual meeting and the special shareholders meeting on January 20, has cost Fraser £750,000 and lost interest on the D. H. Evans £29m sale and leaseback deal, which has been challenged by Lonrho, cost £250,000.

But it is unlikely that the Fraser board will be meeting Mr "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of Lonrho, head on. Although Sir Hugh had been reported as saying he wanted Mr Rowland and fellow Lonrho representative Lord Duncan-Sandys voted off the board next summer, he emphasized yesterday that he was expressing a very personal opinion and that he had not discussed it with the rest of the board.

Flanked at a special press conference yesterday by his two latest board appointments, Professor Roland Smith, and Mr Ernest Sharp, a former joint managing director of Grand Metropolitan, Sir Hugh said: "I was epressing a personal opinion. But the situation is impossible. You would not believe what was happening."

But Professor Smith said he was quite happy with Lonrho on the board. "Life would be very unexciting without them." Mr Sharp said: "I have sympathy with Sir Hugh's comments, but I am not sure we should go that far."

He added: "When I was invited to join House of Fraser I had no intention of joining the Lonrho camp or the House of Fraser camp. I was not able to maintain that stance any longer when I saw the degree of harassment and the diversion of management time in a wholly unproductive way. To be anything else would be a total dereliction of duty.

"We have a vote on everything. If you said it was Tuesday we would have to have a vote on it. I have voted more times at Fraser board meetings than at the board meetings I have attended in the past 20 years put together", Mr Sharp said.

He defended the group's decision to sell and leaseback D. H. Evans in a property deal designed to give the group a total of £40m. Fraser did not need the money, but was looking at the best way to use the group's 112 stores starting with the biggest. "When you ask the question of Harrods the answer is simple. You do nothing. The store is superb as it is", he said.

Both sides are claiming considerable support from the special meeting in Glasgow. Lonrho says it has the backing of 3,500 shareholders, but it does not know how many votes that represents.

Sir Hugh said the board has "more than, slightly more than that" but declined to disclose how many votes were with him. "I do not see any way we would lose, but if we did, we would have to take stock again."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Building societies lend record £965m

By Margaret Stone

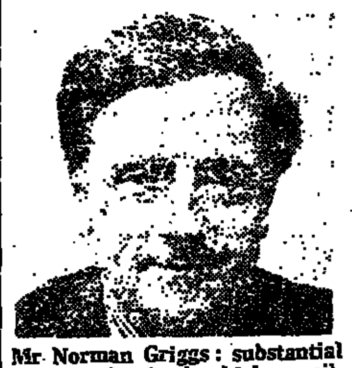
Building societies lent a record £965m to home buyers in December and promised a further £883m to borrowers, leaving the societies in a strong position at the end of the year.

Mr Norman Griggs, Secretary General of the Building Societies Association, said yesterday that societies "should have substantial mortgage funds available over the next two or three months".

Net receipts in December at £448m were comfortably higher than the £350m originally forecast for the month, and are the second best for 1980.

Fears that the Government's second issue of index-linked National Savings certificates would cream away funds from societies for the second successive month proved unfounded.

After the £150m estimated transfer from building societies to savings certificates in November (when the issue went on sale), only £60m was thought to have been "lost" to the state last month.



Mr Norman Griggs: substantial mortage funds should be available.

By making the age qualification 60 years for holders of both sexes and increasing the maximum holding on the new index-linked certificates to £3,000, the Government intended them to be the main contributor to its programme to raise £1,500m from National Savings this fiscal year.

However, after the sales success of the initial weeks, the momentum seems to have dwindled and sales are now averaging just over £40m a week.

The Government is now pinning its hopes on the conventional 19th issue of National Savings certificates yielding 14.7 per cent gross and on National Savings Bank investment accounts, paying 15 per cent. The maximum holdings were raised to £5,000 and £200,000 on Monday.

The cut in building society investment rates from 10.5 per cent to 9.25 per cent (13.2 per cent gross) at the beginning of the year, has not as yet had much impact upon society receipts, although it is expected to cause a modest fall in returns this month.

The reduction will also make a difference to the amount of interest credited to investors. Last year, interest left in accounts amounted to £3.328m—not much less than total net receipts of £3,674m.

Total lending last year was £9,400m, the highest ever, but the rise in house prices, mainly during the early part of the year, meant that only 679,000 home loans were made compared with 715,000 in 1979.

IN BRIEF

Denial of Options Market withdrawal

Stock Market suggestions that one stock jobber was to withdraw from the Traded Options market and that another planned to reduce its involvement were categorically denied last night by Mr David Steen, a member of the Stock Exchange Council. The jobbers mentioned were Bisgood Bishop and Wedd Durlacher Mordaunt.

It was believed that the stock jobbers had reached their decisions after a Traded Options Committee meeting yesterday morning.

There have been mounting difficulties in the market for some time because volume has been disappointingly small since its inception three years ago. In the past six months volume has never exceeded 2,916 contracts.

Mr Steen said: "No jobber has decided to pull out." But he admitted that jobbers had been losing money on options and unless turnover improved over the next six months some might reduce their commitments.

Commerzbank fails to pay dividend

Commerzbank AG, West Germany's third largest private sector bank, has confirmed that it will not be paying a dividend for 1980 because of inadequate earnings on its lending business.

The lesson, page 16
Financial Editor, page 17
Business Diary, page 17

Port of London Aid

The Port of London is seeking more financial help from the Government and faces another inquiry before any decision is made. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, told Parliament yesterday.

Midland Bank move



Mr Malcolm Wilcox, who is to retire as one of the joint chief general managers of Midland Bank as part of extensive senior management changes announced yesterday. Mr Stuart Graham is taking on overall responsibility for the bank's operations with the title of chief executive.

Business Diary, page 17
Business Appointments, page 19

£127,000 salary

An unnamed director of Management Agency and Music, the Tom Jones and Engelbert Humperdinck group, earned more than £127.000 last year—more than double his previous year's £48,815, according to the annual report.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 3.67 points down at 965.10. The $-SDR was 1.26579. The £ was 0.530352.

'Inadequate' rescue plan for Chrysler

Washington, Jan 13.—Mr William Miller the United States Treasury Secretary said yesterday that Chrysler's plan to gain a further $400m (£167m) in Federal loan guarantees was inadequate and a new one needed to be presented by this afternoon.

The (Chrysler Loan Guarantee) Board does not feel that the plan presented by Chrysler is adequate", he said after meeting company and United Auto Workers Union officials. "It needs to be fine tuned".

Earlier Mr Douglas Fraser, the president of the Union said that any union concessions made to keep Chrysler afloat would probably depend on a profit-sharing agreement.

"I do not want to take the attitude that we would bring down the corporation on a single issue, but we are going to be pretty insistent about profit sharing", he said and stressed that this was very important to the 60,000 member-union.

After a day of meetings with the company and members of the Loan Guarantee Board he said he thought that the board's members had reacted positively to the profit-sharing part of the plan.

"It seemed conceptually acceptable to them, but I do not think they view it as their role to urge this upon the Chrysler Corporation", he said. He still expected the board to decide on the loan guarantees today.

To receive the new guarantees, Chrysler must convince the loan board that it can survive, but time is running out for the company which has been on the brink of bankruptcy for over a year.

This week, officials, union leaders, corporate executives and bankers are meeting in Washington to try to work out a plan to keep Chrysler afloat.

The company has already drawn $800m of the £1,500m in government-backed loans authorized by Congress just over a year ago, and has asked workers to forgo $653m in wages and benefits over the next 21 months and suppliers to freeze their prices for a year.—Reuter.

Manchester to lose 700 more jobs

By R. W. Shakespeare

The hard pressed northwest, where more than 100,000 jobs were lost last year is bearing the brunt of yet another slimming down operation, by two of its employers.

Schreiber, the furniture-makers, is to close its factory at Trafford Park, Manchester, with the loss of 400 jobs, and the Port of Manchester is to cut 300 jobs.

Schreiber's bedroom furniture plant was bought from Great Universal Stores in 1971 and is one of the company's six manufacturing centres. Production will be transferred to the other five factories throughout the country as the Manchester plant is phased out by the end of March.

The factory employs 475 people and between 60 and 80 of them are being offered jobs at another Schreiber factory at Runcorn in Cheshire. The remainder, both management and administrative staff and shop-floor workers, will be made redundant.

Mr Dennis Thomas, Schreiber's managing director, said yesterday: "The decision is the result of over capacity caused by the economic situation."

The Port of Manchester is to cut its labour force by 10 per cent because of a rapid drop in trade. About 300 dockers and management, administrative and clerical staff will take voluntary redundancy and discussions with the unions will be held over the next few weeks.

Some of the redundancies will affect the Tranmere oil terminal at the seaward end of the canal.

In a statement yesterday Mr Julian Taylor, the port's managing director, said: "Traffic through the port, and particularly in the terminal docks, has declined much more rapidly than could have been foreseen. Efforts continue unabated to attract new business but we cannot expect to gain enough to replace what we are losing. There is just not enough work to continue to employ all of our present workforce of 3,000."

The Port of Manchester, 36 miles inland and served by the Manchester Ship Canal, has in recent times lost much of its trade, including the Manchester Liners services to Canada, trade with Polish ports and a 40-year-old connexion with the Harrison Line.

Its cargo business to India and East Africa is being run down as it is taken over by ships that are too large to use the port and are therefore being switched to the south-east coast.

Another factor is the ending of coal and ash exports from the Partington section of the ship canal.

Flexibility of financial system urged

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

The changing pattern of financial flows seen over the past few years required an adaptable approach on the part of the authorities in their attitudes towards the objectives of monetary control, prudential controls for the financial system and the fiscal advantages given to certain parts of the financial system.

This was the message of Mr "Kit" McMahon, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England in the Ernest Sykes Memorial Lecture, delivered to the Institute of Bankers last night.

Taking the large increase in the personal sector surplus, and the corresponding increase in the deficits of the public and corporate sectors as his starting point, Mr McMahon noted the ways in which the tax system might have influenced the way in which personal sector surpluses had been used. He drew particular attention to the building society, life assurance and pension receipts.

The result of the former had been that substantial funds had been absorbed in house-purchase, while the result of the latter might have been that available long term investment funds had increasingly gone to well-recognized companies.

It was "fair to observe that, as is often the case, tax incentives originally designed for the best of motives—such as the encouragement of provision for retirement—have created or magnified distortions in the process of saving and investment which are later found to require corrective measures".

The increased role of the banking system in channelling personal sector funds to the corporate sector had resulted in increasing pressure on the banks and a change in the banks' "maturity transformation", with more borrowing short to lend long.

This made it desirable both to move towards the reopening of the long term capital markets for companies and to ensure capital adequacy for the banking system.

The Government was already moving towards the former objective with its plan to take pressure off long term interest rates by shifting more public sector funding back into National Savings. This would necessarily lead to greater competition between the Government and the building societies for personal sector savings, but that in turn might help to prevent a new explosion in house prices.

As far as the banks' capital adequacy went, the relatively healthy performance of bank profits had in some measure compensated for the riskier environment in which they operated and helped to mitigate the impairment of their capital base.

But the raising of new capital, either in the equity or long term debenture market, would be a helpful development in terms both of prudential and monetary control.

Greater competition for personal savings could help monetary control in that it produced rather longer term savings instruments than short term deposits. But developments, as in the United States, of the ability to switch savings and time account funds easily into current account form could complicate matters.

All these developments would have to be taken into account by the monetary authorities in defining their objectives in controlling monetary aggregates.

Financial Editor, page 17

Massey loan talks begin

Full discussions on rescheduling the $1,000m (£420m) debt owed by Massey-Ferguson, the the troubled Canadian agricultural machinery manufacturer, are due to start in London tomorrow. Preliminary discussions on the proposals presented by the company before Christmas began last week.

Representatives of around 50 institutions have been holding technical discussions in the Dorchester hotel to prepare for the full meeting which, it is hoped, will hammer out a plan to save the company. A settlement could be reached in two or three days.

Massey-Ferguson has said that until agreement is reached it will not meet any payments on the debt owed to a total of about 250 banks and other institutions around the world. Some £170m is owed to British clearing banks, with Barclays being the biggest lender.

A small Australian finance house, Capel Court Corporation, said yesterday that it will not pursue legal action against Massey-Ferguson Holdings (Australia). The Australian Massey company went voluntarily into receivership last month when Capel Court said it would press for repayment of A$3m.

But along with other creditors, Capel Court says that if agreement is not reached it is prepared to proceed with liquidating Massey. Midland Bank International has a 26 per cent stake in Capel Court.

GEC completes takeover of US electronics group

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

Ferranti and the General Electric Company have concluded separate deals with two United States electronics companies—International Signal and Control Corporation (ISC) of Lancaster, Pennsylvania (and its United Kingdom subsidiary, ESI London), and Circuit Technology Incorporated (CTI) of Farmingdale, New York. The GEC deal involves the takeover of CTI.

Ferranti and ISC have signed a mutual trading agreement to develop, manufacture and market in the European Nato countries a range of specialized electronic defence systems. ISC will market selected Ferranti products in the United States.

GEC has completed the acquisition of CTI, a specialist in hybrid thick-film microelectronic circuits whose 1980 sales amounted to about $15m (over £6m). The American firm's technology will be applied by Marconi Space and Defence Systems, part of GEC, and its team will work closely with Marconi Electronic Devices.

For the Marconi systems company, both the technology and the expertise in volume production of CTI will be useful in the development of the next generation of military and commercial equipment. In both markets the prime requirements will include further miniaturization and high reliability. CTI employs about 400 people and its management is to remain with the company.

£20m ships order for North-east

By John Huxley

A British Shipbuilders yard has won an order worth more than £20m to build four cargo vessels for a Hongkong-based shipping group.

The order, secured against strong Far East competition, has been placed by Sir Yue-Kong Pao's World-Wide Shipping with the Austin and Pickersgill yard, Sunderland.

State-owned British Shipbuilders is almost certain to make a loss on the contract but it will boost morale on the eve of BS talks with the unions in London today when further job cuts will be outlined.

Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman of BS, said yesterday these orders "result from our high-level, intensive sales of the Far East in November." Then, the chairman and Mr John Parker, his deputy, led a powerful sales team to a shipping conference and exhibition in Hongkong.

This latest contract brings the value of work from the Far East to some £90m, and "we are hopeful that further orders will be received in the not too distant future", Mr Atkinson said.

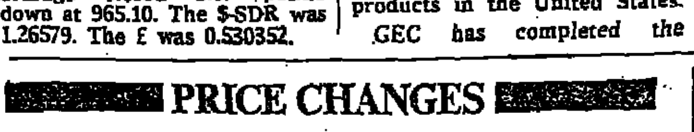
For the past two years World-Wide has been buying new ships, 11 of which have been delivered during the last 12 months. The majority of contracts have been placed with Japanese yards, and it is the first time since 1974 that the group has placed orders with a British shipyard.

The order is for four of the highly successful SD-14, 15,000-ton deadweight general cargo vessels. Austin and Pickersgill, which employs about 2,700, will deliver the ships in the first half of 1982. The yard is also supplying two other vessels to Far East clients.

The orders have been won with aid made available through the shipbuilding intervention fund, which provides a subsidy of up to 25 per cent of contract value and aims to reduce the differential between British and overseas prices.

Meanwhile, British Shipbuilders, which announced a half-year loss of £57m in December, is pressing ahead with plans to reduce and restructure its activities. It has already told union leaders that it wants to cut the workforce by 3,200 by the end of March, reducing the total to 67,000.

Unions and management agreed in autumn, 1979, to a reduction in manpower in the loss-making merchant shipbuilding yards. Some 10,000 jobs were to go by mid-1980, although part of this was to be offset by an increase in naval and offshore yard workforces.



PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Boustead	6p to 114p	Mercantile Hse	12p to 575p
Carr'ton Viy	1p to 11p	Middle Wits	15p to 840p
Hawkins & T'son	4p to 26p	Sentrust	13p to 356p
Kinross	20p to 649p	SGB Group	8p to 136p
Lesney Ord	1p to 15p	Vlakfontein	10p to 285p

Falls

Fisons	30p to 138p	Marievale Con	34p to 188p
GKN	10p to 138p	Phoenix	10p to 242p
GRE	10p to 290p	Rand Mine Prop	20p to 295p
Hogg Rob	7p to 105p	Tube Invest	16p to 166p
Husky Oil	22p to 690p	W Rand Cons	11p to 184p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	2.10	2.02	Norway Kr	12.83	12.28
Austria Sch	35.25	33.25	Portugal Esc	134.00	126.00
Belgium Fr	79.50	76.00	South Africa Rd	2.13	2.00
Canada $	2.91	2.83	Spain Pta	194.50	186.00
Denmark Kr	15.20	14.50	Sweden Kr	10.98	10.48
Finland Mkk	9.60	9.15	Switzerland Fr	4.47	4.26
France Fr	11.33	10.88	USA $	2.44	2.37
Germany DM	4.94	4.72	Yugoslavia Dnr	83.50	78.50
Greece Dr	131.00	124.00			
Hongkong $	12.65	12.05			
Ireland Pd	1.32	1.27			
Italy Lira	2370.00	2260.00			
Japan Yn	513.00	487.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.35	5.12			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Kent company's £1m educational broadcasting network goes on air

Ethiopia tunes in to British radio system

The first stations on a national educational broadcasting network have gone on the air in Ethiopia using British equipment.

The £1m contract for antennas and other supporting equipment for the entire network was awarded to C & S Antennas, of Rochester, Kent, by the educational mass media service of the Ethiopian ministry of education.

The ministry is providing a service to educate a population now in excess of 28 million spread over 1.3 million square kilometres in such self-help subjects as hygiene and nutrition.

The broadcasting contract, which was competed for in open tender, was funded substantially by the International Development Agency in conjunction with the World Bank. The radio receivers to be provided for villages throughout the country will be purchased from other funds.

Three medium wave transmitting stations have just gone on air, and within the next year will be joined by another eight. Each of these stations will broadcast programmes on three frequencies using different languages.

One of the languages will be Amharic, the official one and most widely used in Ethiopia, and the other two frequencies will cater for local dialects. The poor level of literacy in the country has made the radio network particularly important for education on agriculture, hygiene and diet.

For the Rochester company, the project was a triumph. They won in open competition against American and Japanese companies but then had to instal the equipment in difficult terrain.

Destinations were sometimes remote. Shipments landed at Assab on the Red Sea were then transported by rough road for hundreds of miles.

The dry climate and high altitudes—some of the antennas are operating at about 8,000 feet—meant that the equipment was particularly prone to damage by lightning storms. The thin air at that altitude also meant that insulating properties were not the same as at sea level, and adjustments had to be made.

The programmes on the new radio network are to be prepared by the Ethiopian ministry of education. However, the Kent company's contract included training local engineers and riggers to set up, operate and maintain the system.

In each of 11 locations, three separate transmitters, ultimately with a power of 10 kilowatts each, are fed to an antenna. The antennas have been fitted with electronic "black boxes" to prevent interference between the signals.

Bill Johnstone

'Too dynamic' policies led to over-exposure on long term credit

Commerzbank learns its lesson

Herr Paul Lichtenberg, who came out of retirement this month to return as chief executive of Commerzbank, explained yesterday why West Germany's third largest private bank would not be paying a dividend for 1980.

The bank's problems last year stemmed from "too dynamic" policies in the late 1970s, he said. But the present lean period did not reflect inadequate efficiency.

Although it will be some months before the bank's 1980 results are published, Herr Lichtenberg disclosed that earnings on commission and services had risen last year to nearly DM400m (£84m) from DM342m in 1979, while the bank's surplus from lending and borrowing had also improved to average more than DM90m (£19m) a month by the end of last year from around DM77m in the first 10 months.

While the interest surplus was still small, it was sufficient with the surplus on commission to cover all current costs so that the bank was starting the new year in better shape than the year before.

Herr Lichtenberg, who at the age of 69 was obviously enjoying his return to full time banking, said the chances for a positive trend in the bank's earnings position were not bad. He made clear the major priority for the coming decade would be to return to a satisfactory level of profitability. This would involve exploiting opportunities to boost profits and changes in organization to curb costs or at least the growth of costs.

Commerzbank's decision to omit its dividend for last year is unprecedented in post-war German banking history. Problems arose because between 1977 and 1979, when credit demand was slack, it invested heavily in long term government promissory notes at low fixed interest rates, and stepped up its long term lending to housebuilders also at low fixed rates.



Herr Paul Lichtenberg: enjoying his return to full-time banking.

The bank failed to anticipate West Germany's swing into balance of payments deficit, which has forced the Federal Bank to maintain a tight credit policy for the past 16 months. Because Commerzbank has traditionally depended to a large extent on money market borrowing to refinance its lending, this combination of factors put immense pressure on margins.

Herr Lichtenberg said the bank had started to react to its problems last year. In the first 10 months, it switched DM1,200m (£257m) from long term promissory notes into short term paper that required no end-year writeoffs. This move also created scope for new lending of DM500m at higher interest rates.

By selling its 32 per cent stake in Kaufhof, the West German store group, and reducing its holding in the Hochtief construction firm, the bank realized profits to cover writeoffs at the end of last year of DM70m on fixed interest securities and DM37m on its holding in the troubled AEG electrical concern.

Herr Lichtenberg said that, although the bank expected interest rates will stay high in Germany this year, it expected higher earnings on its lending business because roughly DM4,000m of long term lending at low rates is due for repayment while the bank has only to pay back DM1,900m of fixed interest debt to its creditors.

He said the bank planned no significant expansion in its balance sheet this year. "In general, we have learned out of the developments of the past years to hold long term fixed interest lending in narrower limits", Herr Lichtenberg added. Although the dictates of the market did not allow the bank to abandon such business completely, it would in future be measured against the bank's ability to borrow long term. Over a period, Commerzbank hoped to reduce its dependence on money market refinancing and build up its savings business.

Herr Lichtenberg made clear that he expected the bank's staff to work harder to help it out of its difficulties. Both the managing board and the supervisory board are receiving no performance related payments in respect of last year.

He disclosed that he is trying to get Dr Walter Seipp, at present a member of the Westdeutsche Landesbank board, to become the new chief executive of Commerzbank.

Herr Lichtenberg has been seconded from his position as chairman of Commerzbank's supervisory board for one year to find a chief executive to replace Herr Robert Dhom, whose retirement on the grounds of ill health was announced shortly before Christmas.

Peter Norman
in Frankfurt

Exchange curbs on way in Zambia

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia has ordered the first of a series of belt-tightening measures needed to gain essential help from the International Monetary Fund. These are bound to be unpopular, and could cause political unrest in the country.

Mr Kaunda has imposed greater restrictions on foreign exchange, which already had been difficult to obtain, and raised between 30 per cent and 50 per cent the price of domestically grown corn to reduce farm subsidies.

Other changes are expected in the Government budget due later this month. These, aimed at reducing the budget deficit and thus reducing the need for foreign borrowing, are expected to include higher taxes and the reduction or elimination of many consumer subsidies, including outlays for imported corn.

Pakistan debts talks

Pakistan will seek major rescheduling of $280m (about £117m) development debts to cope with its balance of payments problems at a two-day meeting with major Western aid donors starting in Paris today, according to Islamabad sources.

Bonn-Soviet pipeline

A new round of talks between the Soviet Union and a West German consortium over a projected multi-billion mark *natural gas pipeline will take* place in the next two months, probaby in the USSR, a spokesman for Ruhrgas AG, a consortium member said in Essen.

US food warning

It will be "only a few years" before United States food production will be concentrated among a handful of superfarms unless steps are taken at once to change and fine-tune Federal farm policy, says a report released in Washington by the United States Agriculture Department after exhaustive research.

Spanish Eurocredit

Formal Syndication of a $500m Eurocredit for the Kingdom of Spain is expected to start next Monday, banking sources said in Madrid.

Pressure to raise energy prices in US

By John Huxley

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Minister for Trade, yesterday reaffirmed the Government's determination to persuade the United States to raise its energy prices to world levels more quickly. Under present *plans this will not occur for* both oil and gas until 1985.

He told a delegation of professional managers from ICI Fibres at Harrogate that talks should begin before the next European Community Council of Ministers meeting in February.

Meanwhile, the Commission was taking anti-dumping action against certain American imports into the United Kingdom.

The delegation, organized by the Managerial, Professional & Staff Liaison Group, had earlier called for "drastic action" to save Britain's textiles industry. artificially low energy and feedstock costs, are regarded as a significant threat to its survival.

Japanese cars pledge sought

By Edward Townsend

Further commitments from the Japanese over the number of cars to be exported to the United Kingdom this year will be sought by the British dele*gation at the next round of* motor industry talks in Lisbon on February 3 and 4.

Japanese manufacturers have already agreed to a further year of voluntary restraint in the United Kingdom but Britain's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) now wants to reach an agreement at the Lisbon talks on the probable size of the 1981 United Kingdom car market.

The meeting comes just five months after leaders of the two *industries met in Tokyo to dis*cuss the voluntary restraint policy, but the SMMT is keen to get this year's round off to an early start.

Last year, a total of 180,190 Japanese cars were sold in the United Kingdom, almost 5,000 fewer than in 1979, but their share of the market rose from 10.78 per cent to 11.9 per cent. A winter sales freeze by Datsun UK, the largest Japanese importer, helped to curb the market share but it remained higher than had been expected.

Mr Anthony Fraser, director of the SMMT, said yesterday: "Last year the Japanese said they miscalculated the size of the market and we are now hoping to reach early agreement on our 1981 forecasts."

By the time it was realized last year that the Japanese had overestimated the level of United Kingdom car registrations, sales targets had been set and shipments made.

Car sales last year, at 1.51 million, were the fifth largest on record but represented a fall of 11.8 per cent on the 1979 figure of 1.72 million. This year the SMMT is predicting a further drop of 6 per cent to 1.42m.

If the Japanese agree on this figure, it would mean that to achieve a market share of no more than 11 per cent they would have to reduce unit sales by 24,000 compared with 1980. The Japanese "prudent" marketing policy generally is assumed to mean a United Kingdom market share of between 10 and 11 per cent.

The British delegation at the Lisbon talks will be led by Sir Bernard Scott, president of the SMMT, and include Mr Fraser and Mr Hugh Cownie, the association's economic adviser. It is not yet known whether it will also include Mr Pratt Thompson, chairman of BL International, and Mr George Turnbull, chairman and managing director of Talbot UK, both of whom attended last September's meeting.

The discussions are taking place against a background of mounting unease throughout the rest of Europe and in the United States about the continuing Japanese car invasion. A top level European Commission delegation is to visit Tokyo later this month in a bid to persuade manufacturers to control exports to the EEC which rose by 19 per cent in the first eight months of 1980 compared with a year earlier.

Renault of France recently gave a warning to the Belgian Government that it would reduce investments and operations in Belgium if imports of Japanese vehicles were left unchecked.

Meanwhile, a new report from the United States Transportation Department has urged Congress to negotiate some form of import restraint. American car makers had record losses last year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Implications of pay claims

From Mr H. R. Thomas

Sir, Of course farm employers would like to see farm workers' pay very substantially higher than that confirmed by the Agricultural Wages Board on January 6, if those who pay it could recover the cost. There are very many small scale producers who employ no labour, although many of these (tenants or owners occupiers) are working for "drawings" which amount to less than the Agricultural Wages Board rate would be if they were in employment. These farmers with no wage bill are in competition with those who do employ labour on their holdings and both receive the same prices for their products in the market place. Could this be the reason why the Low Pay Unit reports only 14 per cent of national farm income is being spent on labour?

On the partnership's farms in North Devon and on Exmoor where all labour is employed, there are 36 efficient farm workers. Over the last three years the proportion of labour cost to output has risen from 20 per cent to 25 per cent. The problem is particularly one of the hills, because although our intensive lowland dairy farms currently pay 20 per cent of gross income as wages, the extensive Exmoor farms have a labour element of 35 per cent. (Similar farm enterprises show similar ratios).

There are clear implications for rural employment which Dan van der Vat does not touch upon and, in particular, for the health of the National Parks, concerning not only farm workers but also forestry employees, which ought to be considered by the new inquiry into wages and jobs being undertaken by the Agricultural Wages Board as part of this year's settlement.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH THOMAS,
The Fortescue Farm Partnership,
Estate Office,
Castle Hill,
Filleigh,
Barnstaple,
Devon EX32 0RH.
January 7.

From Mr R. T. Arguile

Sir, One understands that the union which represents the water workers and those dealing with water supply and sewage disposal, have put up a claim for a 30 per cent wage increase. They have been offered 7.9 per cent in return and a dispute which could affect us all is likely.

The following are headlines and abstracts taken from your own paper: "Inflation rate in past three months averages 8 per cent" (October 1980); "72 per cent happy with pay, poll shows" (November 1980); "Pay rises 6 per cent above level of inflation" (November 1980); "Water unions see miners' pay deal as pace setter" (January 1981).

I was at one time a qualified water engineer and also worked for local authorities and dealt with sewerage and sewage disposal. I have been a life-long trade unionist but cannot see how any union can put up a claim for 30 per cent for a wage increase when the inflationary trend is downwards, when most folk are content with current pay awards and when it is known that pay awards last year outstripped price increases and inflation. The private sector has had to accept lower pay. The public sector are becoming the albatross around our necks.

Finally we have over two million unemployed. What times we live in.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. ARGUILE,
12 Edward Road,
Market Harborough,
Leics LE16 7AD.

From Mr R. N. Cohen

Sir, We like to buy British and we like to sell British and we like to ship British, but what can any sensible firm do at this moment with the threat of a seamen's strike, when we have material to send to Singapore—the customer relies on our delivering on time and we can ship at £29 a tonne cheaper by a non-British shipping company.

Do the British seamen understand what damage they are doing to their companies and to themselves, even by threatening strike action?

Your faithfully,
R. N. COHEN,
A. Cohen & Co (Great Britain) Ltd,
8 Waterloo Place,
St James's,
London SW1Y 4AH,
January 8.

Credit card surcharges

From Mr P. R. Easton

Sir, I was glad to note that one major petrol retailer at least has the sense not to try to penalize those customers wishing to use credit cards when purchasing fuel on the forecourt (Letters, January 9).

It would appear the disagreement is really between the filling stations and the credit card companies, with the latter charging too high a rate of commission to the former. If that is so, why take it out on the customer?

As a matter of fact, it is the filling stations—and the MAA behind them—which will ultimately suffer from this strange and unfair policy of applying a penal surcharge. Like no *doubt many other motorists, I* now pay cash at such garages but purchase only £2 or £3 worth of fuel instead of a full tank, value £16-£17, as I would do when using a credit card.

May one hope that the more enlightened petrol retailers, such as Swan National, will make every effort to let potential customers know where their filling stations are located? I, for one, will make a point of using them whenever possible.

P. R. EASTON,
6 Buckingham Street,
Strand,
London WC2N 6BU.

Label was a Chinese puzzle

From Mr R. H. Dawson

Sir, From the label of a Chinese-made down jacket purchased on January 7:

"Hand or machine wash on gentle cycle in warm water using mild detergent with zipper closed. Do not bleach. Tumble dry on lowest heat with a clean tennis shoe".

I remain, Sir, in some confusion,

R. H. DAWSON,
98 Markfield,
Courtwood Lane,
Croydon,

A clergyman's choice

From Mr William Richards

Sir, The Rev John Brown (news item, January 7) might reflect that the fact of his wife earning a substantial salary has obviously enabled him to indulge himself in the matter of forgoing part of his salary increase.

It would be very much better if he took the full increase and asked his wife to stay at home, both as an example of dedication to the family and as a way of providing a job vacancy for someone more obviously in need.

The time has long gone (if it were ever here) when the country could afford two wage earners to every family, particularly when one of them has a much more important job at home, helping to keep the social structure of the country together and nurturing its greatest asset—the next generation.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM G. RICHARDS,
21 Grange Weint,
Liverpool L25 5PU.

DRAWING OF BONDS

COPENHAGEN TELEPHONE CO. LIMITED
(KJOBENHAVNS TELEFON AKTIESELSKAB)
US$12,000,000 5¾% EXTERNAL LOAN 1970/84

This is to announce that, to meet the instalment due on 12th February 1981, Nominal US$800,000 Bonds for a nominal amount of US$535,000 have been bought on the market, while the following Bond representing a total nominal amount of US$265,000 have been drawn:

113	148	152	256	1024
1705	1945	1972	1973	1974
1985	2056	2079	2142	2230
2551	2563	2491	2888	3115
3359	3250	3264	3263	3270
3377	3289	3299	3416	3426
3427	3431	3436	3540	3615
3465	3731	3851	3855	4001
4229	4316	4361	4375	4381
4385	4384	4551	4058	4560
4562	4572	4881	4913	4948
4969	4987	5025	5137	5184
5206	5307	5313	5313	5315
5364	5392	5395	5429	5492
5515	5598	5661	5681	5750
5743	5737	5751	5778	5797
5830	5831	5864	6001	6121
6293	6306	6351	6455	6445
6446	6455	6493	6536	6540
6523	6584	6604	6643	6648
6649	6701	6756	6835	6836
6857	6868	6888	6967	7025
7035	7137	7139	7174	7180
7311	7324	7355	7365	7551
7537	7557	7612	7662	7653
7700	7835	7885	7951	8024
8077	8091	8103	8235	8287
8290	8340	8410	8443	8436
8437	8464	8491	8502	8511
8608	8813	8814	8901	8915
9015	9033	9054	9075	9096
9112	9152	9216	9221	9248
9266	9267	9269	9291	9293
9396	9530	9604	9637	9684
9687	9689	9757	9807	9813
9831	9854	9909	9935	10138
10165	10173	10295	10332	10370
10371	10372	10398	10399	10413
10314	10463	10465	10487	10495
10499	10528	10529	10531	10575
10608	10619	10624	10625	10751
10738	10764	10805	10838	10839
10843	10851	10852	10858	10881
10880	10886	10887	10903	10913
10925	10947	10949	11007	11024
11028	11029	11033	11044	11049
11055	11256	11270	11287	11302
11323	11354	11356	11369	11376
11336	11391	11510	11513	11535
11550	11560	11607	11638	11701
11751	11755	11756	11770	11770
11774	11781	11848	11850	11850
11865	11866	11904	11905	11960

Privatbanken A/S
Copenhagen, Denmark.

LEGAL NOTICES
also on page 22

VERITY & GARDNER Limited. THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948. I, George Albert Auger, Certified Accountant of Messrs Stoy Hayward & Co., 54 Baker Street, London W1M 1DJ give notice that I was appointed LIQUIDATOR in the above matter on the 18th December 1980. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.
G. A. AUGER
Liquidator.

TAPESTRY (JACKETS) LIMITED. The Companies Act, 1948. I, Peter Richard Copp Chartered Accountant of Messrs Stoy Hayward & Partners 54 Baker Street London W1M 1DJ give notice that I was appointed Liquidator in the above matter on the 6th January, 1981. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.
Liquidator.
P. R. COPP.

TAPESTRY (SHIRTS) LIMITED. The Companies Act, 1948. I, Peter Richard Copp Chartered Accountant of Messrs Stoy Hayward & Partners 54 Baker Street, London W1M 1DJ give notice that I was appointed Liquidator in the above matter on the 6th January, 1981. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.
P. R. COPP.
Liquidator.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Dog days in German banking

Art the problems of the German banks, which have finally led Commerzbank to confirm that it will not be paying a dividend this year, just a temporary phenomenon wholly connected with the weakness of the Deutschemark and the vicious squeeze on interest margins over the last two years? Or are they a reflection of fundamental changes in the banking structure that are working to the disadvantage of the big universal banks?

Many German bankers believe that it is bad management, which has been too slow to respond to changes in the economy at large, that is at the root of their troubles. Commerzbank's difficulties stem from the rapid expansion of its balance sheet over the last five years which has given it a higher proportion of fixed-rate lending than the other banks. To make matters worse this has been largely funded in the interbank market, where borrowing has become more and more expensive as the German authorities have intensified the monetary squeeze.

Certainly, the much better showing of Deutsche Bank this year, while reflecting its wider domestic branch network and cheaper current account money to some extent, also owes a lot to its management's better reading of German interest rates.

But the position of the universal banks in the monetary system, whereby they have to place interest-free deposits with the Bundesbank, puts them at the sharp end in periods of monetary restraint as over the last two years. Unlike the British clearers, the big three German banks have only about 10 per cent of the savings market and with the sharp rise in interest rates the savings and Landesbank have become very stiff competitors.

Meanwhile, with their large industrial holdings and the difficulties of German companies highlighted by the crisis last year at AEG, the banks may have extensive bad debt provisions for some time to come.

For the moment though Commerzbank is talking confidently about getting back to a dividend in 1981. But the dogs days for German banks are far from over given that interest rates look like remaining high, and the old practice of yearly rights issues to pump up balance sheets will now be much more difficult to get away. Critics of United Kingdom clearing bank profits may like to muse on what would have happened to depositors' confidence had Barclays or NatWest passed their dividend.

Reo Stakis

When Scotland suffers...

Reo Stakis Organization, the Scottish hotel casino and off licence chain has grown through opportunism. It used a loophole in Glaswegian licensing laws to build hotels that could cater for drinkers on Sundays when pubs were closed, and it was quick last year to spend £4.4m cash on five Ladbroke casinos when the Courts forced the closure of Cyril Stein's casino chain.

However, it will need all its opportunism to cope with Scotland's recession this year, a point not lost in the market yesterday where the shares slipped 2½p to 49½p.

The figures for the year to last September are surprisingly good. After the rise of 18 per cent in profits at half time the group seemed to be heading for £4m for the full year. But Scotland's worst summer in memory and recession soon had observers settling for around £3.7m. Instead Reo Stakis came up with pretax profits of £3.94m against £3.56m, a figure to which the Ladbroke casinos did not contribute.

The profits breakdown is also surprising. Wholesale wines and spirits and off licences doubled trading profits to £1m, good even though recession is apparently inducing Scotsmen to drink at home after visiting off licences rather than pubs. The 16 per cent advance in casino profits to £1.59m was by contrast pedestrian but hotels and inns had a 7 per cent gain to £2.35m.

Short of fulfilling a long held ambition to buy a "flagship" hotel in London Reo Stakis could be short of pleasant surprises this year. Christmas trade was adequate, but fewer people are flying North to visit Scotland. Results are admitted to be "below expectations". Profits in the first half year will suffer, but another full year of progress is foreseen. But could simply mean that the five Ladbroke casinos will make, say £700,000 after financing charges and the whole group only £4.3m or so, implying a setback for Stakis as it was before the Ladbroke deal.

The shares have already come up from 29½p at one time last year and now yield only 4 per cent, a lot less than Grand Metropolitan and Trusthouse Forte, but the Stakis family, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, and Scottish institutions between them have a majority of the shares.



Mr Reo Stakis, chairman of The Reo Stakis Organization.

● *One of the Government's main financial aims, the Treasury made it clear last summer, would be to take pressure of long-term interest rates by shifting a greater proportion of public-sector financing to the shorter term personal sector market, ie to National Savings instruments. That, in turn, would encourage companies to return to the long-term markets to borrow, taking pressure off the banks and the money supply, as defined by sterling M3. That aim remains intact, according to Mr McMahon, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England in the Ernest Sykes Memorial Lecture that he delivered last night.*

The evidence to date, however, suggests that it is fairly hard going for the authorities. Sales of the new issues of Granny Bonds, launched in November, have been only a limited success to date, though there are clearly hopes that the raised ceilings on holdings of Nineteenth Issue Savings Certificates and Investment Account deposits will prove a good draw. Meanwhile, long-dated, gilt-edged yields have crept back above the 14 per cent level, with the yield curve tending to turn more positive rather than more negative as the authorities had been hoping.

SGB

It must get tougher

SGB's final results put some life back into the shares after their recent weakness and they closed 8p higher at 136p on the £1.8m rise in pretax profits to £16.3m.

But it is clear that trading in the year to September 27 became progressively tougher and at this stage it looks as though profits in the current year will be down by at least £1m.

Having increased first half profits by a quarter, SGB managed only a 3 per cent rise in the second half and the experience of the heavy plant hire activities in contractors' services—the only United Kingdom division not to increase profits—gives some indication of how tough 1980-81 will be.

Coming early in the cycle, the heavy plant hire activities did little better than break even

Scaffolding, which has been helped by the level of repair and maintenance work remains the core of the group; the United Kingdom scaffolding companies accounted for much of the profit increase, contributing over half the pretax total, and repair and maintenance work is still holding up

Overseas results were better despite the downturn in Continental Europe. Meanwhile, SGB's hire shops made higher profits but are temporarily at least ex-growth.

SGB has a good record and sound balance sheet and the dividend, increased by 16 per cent, is 3¼ times covered under current cost accounting. But given the group's exposure to the construction industry, a 5.6 per cent yield is no more than adequate support for shares at this stage.

Melvyn Westlake

How much of a crisis in exports?

One of the puzzles of the British economy in recent months has been the performance of exports. The level recorded each month by the Department of Trade has appeared to be entirely out of tune with the alarmist reports from industrialists of lost overseas orders and declining foreign sales.

The acute concern felt about export prospects arises from the massive loss of price competitiveness that has occurred during the last couple of years. On the basis of relative labour costs the level of price competitiveness in 1980 is estimated by the Treasury to have been some 40 to 50 per cent less favourable than in 1978.

Such a deterioration, the Bank of England said in its last *Quarterly Bulletin*, "has no parallel in recent history, either in this country or among its major competitors". According to Bank estimates, changes in effective competitiveness probably reduced the volume of manufactured exports by 4 per cent between the fourth quarter of 1979 and the third quarter of 1980. But the full effect of recent losses of competitiveness on the volume of trade has, the Bank believes, yet to be felt.

There are two reasons for this loss of competitiveness: high wage increases and the sharp rise in the pound's exchange rate.

Of the 40-50 per cent loss in competitiveness the Treasury apportions three fifths to the higher rise in unit labour costs in the United Kingdom than in our competitors and the remaining two fifths to exchange rate appreciation.

In spite of all this, however, exports in 1980 were up on those in 1979. The value of visible exports last year is likely to have been more than 16 per cent higher than for 1979 (on the basis of the first eleven months and assuming that the December figure is about the average for October and November).

Much of this increase does, of course, represent higher export prices. In volume terms visible exports are likely to have risen by about 2 per cent, after a 3½ per cent increase in 1979.

The underlying trend is shown by changes in the level of exports during the year. Thus, excluding erratic items like ships, aircraft, precious stones and North Sea installations, the volume of visible exports declined between the first and second quarters of the year, with a further modest drop in the third. Even so, volume sales abroad were still then above the average for 1979.

In September and October it did appear that exports were set on a downward course, but in November they bounced back.

What is significant, however, *is that the main contributor to* last year's modest rise in export volumes was sales of non-manufactures — food, beverages, tobacco, basic materials and fuels. *The volume of oil exports* rose by 3-4 per cent as well as earning more for Britain as prices rose.

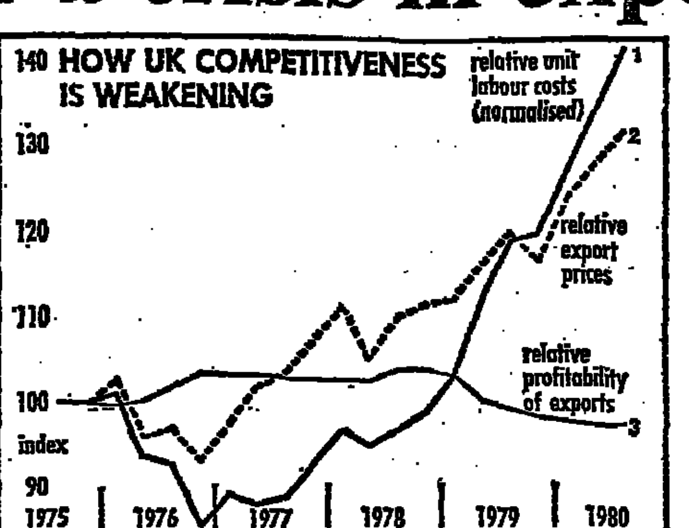
On the other hand, the volume of manufactured exports which account for about three quarters of the total, was higher than in 1979 (excluding erratic items). This was because of a marked fall in semi-manufactures, notably standardized bulk goods like chemicals. This category, more than any other, appears to be suffering from the effects of loss of competitiveness.

Overall, sales of finished manufactures actually rose, although even here the result was not uniform, with exports *of cars dropping and capital* and intermediate goods rising.

Thus, while there is evidence that some sub-categories of exports are being hit by the loss of competitiveness, it is not yet apparent that such effects are very widespread.

There are three possible explanations why this should be so. To begin with, it is clear that the growth of markets important to Britain has been quite strong and certainly greater than had been at first expected by the Department of Trade.

The growth of world trade in manufactures, weighted to accord with the pattern of Britain's trade, is estimated to have been running at about 8 per cent during much of 1980. Although the final figure for the year as a whole might prove to be a little less, market growth will still have been quite high.



Except for relative export profitability, an upward movement in an index indicates a worsening in competitiveness.

Source: Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics.

1. United Kingdom labour costs per unit of manufacturing output divided by a weighted average of competitors' unit labour costs, expressed in a common currency and adjusted for productivity variations.
2. Unit value of United Kingdom exports of manufacturers divided by the weighted average of the unit values of competitiors' exports of manufactures, both expressed in a common currency.
3. Unit value of United Kingdom exports of manufactures divided by a weighted index of United Kingdom wholesale output prices of manufactures.

In particular, the major oil exporting countries, which are more important markets for us than our main competitors, have been rapidly expanding their imports after the oil price increases. Some of the smaller European countries, too, have been quite strong markets.

This has helped to prevent a sharp decline in the level of foreign sales, though, even so, it still seems likely that Britain's volume share of world trade in manufactures will show a fall for 1980.

A second factor helping to maintain export levels last year may have been a redirection of sales from the depressed home market to overseas markets. There is some evidence that those sectors which have been suffering particularly badly from the domestic recession have performed reasonably well in export markets.

It has been suggested that companies might be attempting to overcome the effects of the high exchange rate by improving non-price factors like quality, delivery dates, marketing and after-sales service.

The high level of stocks in industry and the recession at home would certainly have permitted a sharp improvement in delivery time though, if this is the only non-price factor that has improved, any advantage conferred to exporters would be unlikely to survive an upturn in the home market. There is not much evidence of any more profound improvement in non-price competitiveness.

It may also be that exporters have tried to hang on to their overseas markets by cutting profit margins. The profitability of exporters does not appear to have deteriorated much since the end of 1979, relative to profits on home sales, although there has probably been a fall in the profitability of both.

According to some calculations, however, the absolute level of profitability of exports remains higher than for home sales and this would be another incentive for a redirection of sales from the depressed home market to overseas markets.

The third explanation for the recent export performance is the time lag involved before higher prices lead to a fall in orders. The less standardized and more specialized the goods involved, and the longer the contracts and delivery times *that are entailed, the longer it* will take for higher prices to lead to a fall in orders.

An importer may also be able to switch suppliers only after a lag. In the mean time he may be obliged to pay the higher prices asked and the value of exports will rise.

The Treasury believes that it may take up to four years for the full effect of a loss of competitiveness to be felt in the volume of manufactured exports. These effects build up particularly strongly after two years, which means that Britain will begin to feel them more acutely in the next few months.

Some economists have suggested that these relationships between price and volume may have begun to break down in recent years and that an improvement in the non-price factors has reduced the sensitivity of British exports to changes in relative prices. But no evidence of such breakdown in well established relationships *has ben found by economists* in Whitehall.

While the relative strength of overseas sales last year has caused some surprise, there seems little chance of exports repeating that performance this year. Economic forecasters are variously predicting that the volume of exports will fall by between 0.5 and 6 per cent in 1981. The Treasury itself expects the growth in our export markets to slow down substantially, to only about 3 per cent this year. Total exports, sustained to some extent by rising exports of oil and some other non-manufactured goods, are predicted by the Treasury to fall by 3 per cent.

No official forecast is made about the likely growth of manufactured exports this year, in volume terms, but it seems likely that the 3 per cent drop predicted by the National Institute is close to the best official guess.

What makes matters worse is that the situation is still deteriorating. Inflation in Britain is still above that of our competitors and, even if the pound rose no further, this would still mean that price competitiveness was getting worse. Weaker exports are thus likely to exacerbate the recession this year.

Why the travel trade is angry about air fares

With a few notable exceptions the last place to find the cheapest international air fares available in Britain at present is a travel agency. That more than anything, explains the travel trade's anger with the price-cutting campaign now being waged by the airlines.

The bargains on offer may be riddled with restrictions but they are undoubtedly bargains and available to anyone—anyone, that is, except a travel agent. The diligent traveller, for instance, by following up newspaper and magazine advertisements can find himself a reserved return London to Bombay with Gulf Air for about £290. If he went to a travel agent or booked direct with the airline the price would be £800.

This sort of price-cutting has been going on for years. It frequently involves providing false details, such as the date of booking to enable the passenger to take advantage of Apex fare reductions. As far as the airlines are concerned the practice is illegal under the Civil Aviation Authority's licensing regulations.

But the authorities turn a *blind eye to such activities, on* the grounds that any administration which prevents the public from taking advantage of cheap air fares is likely to appear anachronistic in these days of deregulation.

But the heavily discounted air fare, normally sold through "bucket shops" which are not members of the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta), has taken on a new level of importance in recent months, thanks largely to British Airways. The airline has embarked upon an aggressive, if not desperate, marketing campaign to improve its striken finances.

Internal sources at the airline claim that it has given verbal authority to sales staff to match any other fare, to backdate tickets to enable them to be used as Apex fares, and to turn the trickle of BA tickets *sold to bucket shops* into a flood.

A British Airways spokesman said that he was not aware that sales staff had authority *to match fares or* backdate tickets. Of the volume of British Airways business going to bucket shops, he commented: "Foreign airlines are dumping cheap seats on to the market and BA has had to take steps to protect our business."

Foreign carriers, who are by no means whiter than white when it comes to bucket shop sales, are both furious and fearful of the effects. While all accept that bucket shop sales might be used for dumping excess capacity, to use the outlets as a *new aggressive marketing* tool takes the air-fare war on to a new battleground. Some smaller airlines are in no doubt at all that they cannot compete against the new BA fares which are on offer at or below the cost of operating the service.

The anger of the agencies is equally as heartfelt. They are increasingly threatened with accusations of being uncompetitive and have seen package holiday booking services open up in employment bureaux and multiple stores in recent weeks.

Mr Keith Hunter, chairman of ABTA's airline committee, says bluntly: "This sort of dumping of aircraft seats we look upon as a short-term step to Carey Street for the airlines. At the end of the line, someone has to pay. If everyone goes against each other who will win in the end? The airlines have gone over the top and are selling through any outlet they can.

ABTA's position, not unnaturally, is that its members should also be able to avail themselves of bucket shop prices and pass them on to their customers.

BA, and the other airlines who decide to go down the mass discount road, would no doubt be happy to do so, but it is difficult to see how such widespread flouting of the law could be sanctioned without a lead from the Government. If the Government is convinced of BA's strategy of seeking volume above all else, it may give that lead.

The air fares jungle is likely to have a number of long-term effects on world aviation, not least on the rewards of the business travel sector.

Business travel has remained static in the face of the leisure travel boom of recent years and has *consequently taken second place in marketing priorities*

But it is the business travellers who have consistently paid the full fare in the past and are more likely to stick with the airlines through the recession.

Are they, too, going to start demanding cheaper faires, whittling away at the hard core of full fare passengers? According to Mr Arthur Lyddall, past president of the Institute of Travel Managers, the professional body of in-house business travel specialists, "whether the airliners know it or not, they are contributing to the erosion of their high revenue earning business travellers.

"More and more companies are becoming cost conscious and fitting their travel requirements in with discounted fares."

The air fares market has something of an air of fantasy about it at present, with business travellers swapping tales of how the ysaved hundreds of pounds on a trip to Hongkong by booking a package holiday with one of the big tour companies.

But behind it lies the pressing reality of the mounting losses facing most of the world's airlines. The 108 members of the International Air Transport Association (Iata) are facing losses estimated at £1,100m last year and little better this. There is precious little room for mistakes.

David Hewson

The high risks of drug research

The withdrawal of Fisons anti-asthmatic drug Proxicromil only months before its launch is a pharmaceutical company's nightmare come true.

The collapse of Proxicromil is as vivid an example as there has been of the enormous risks involved in the manufacture of drugs. It is estimated that only one in 10,000 new products synthesized in drug company laboratories ever reaches the doctor's surgery. But many of these fall by the wayside at a fairly early stage. Fisons' bad luck—a very expensive piece of bad luck—was that it fell at the *very last hurdle*.

The papers on Proxicromil were being studied by the Committee on the Safety of Medicines—the final safety scrutiny required before a drug can be marketed—when the company itself called a halt, disturbed by the results of a series of tests which had been carried out on animals.

The drug industry arouses a moral indignation in its critics that few other industries, with the possible exception of arms can match. The pharmaceutical companies, the detractors say, trade on human frailty and misery and make enormous profits in so doing.

That many drug companies do make very high profits is true and the industry as a whole makes the kind of returns which make other *industrialists green with envy*. In the three years to April, 1979, according to a recent survey by Inter Company Comparisons, the average profit margin of the industry rose from 10 per cent to 12.4 per cent and the average return on capital climbed from 18.5 per cent to 25.5 per cent.

But what is not so readily appreciated is the extremely high cost of research and development in the industry and the fairly short time over which a good drug can be successfully exploited. Drug companies race against a 20 year clock. That is the length of time which they have patent protection.

But the clock is started at a very early stage in the research programme and, on average, re*search, development and safety* testing takes between 10 and 12 years, which can leave a company with only eight years to sell the drug unimpeded before *competitors can move in with* their own copies.



Intal—Fison's biggest success: what will follow it?

Patent protection is just about to start running out for one of Fisons' most successful products, the antiasthmatic Intal, and Proxicromil had been widely regarded as the successor which would take its place as the lead product in the Fison's range. Proxicromil was due to reach the United Kingdom market in September and was to have been launched in most European countries during 1982 and 1983. It was expected that approval would have been obtained for sale in the American and Japanese markets by 1985 or 1986.

Now the whole plan has blown up in Fisons' face. The company says that a number of other compounds with "significant potential" are now being developed in its laboratories, but no one could hide the disappointment that the collapse of Proxicromil has caused.

Dr Derek Quantock, Fisons' director of research and development, is the man on whose recommendation the drug was withdrawn, when it became apparent that long-term animal tests were throwing doubts on its safety. It is ironic that this was the last series of tests required by the Committee on the Safety of Medicines and even more ironic that these tests, carried out on rate, had been carried through without any negative indications on hampsters.

"I think my first reaction was disbelief and then disappointment," Dr Quantock said yesterday.

It will be some time before Fisons' accountants are able to quantify with any precision just how expensive the Proxicromil affair has been, but Dr Quantock was able to give some indication of the large number of expensive laboratory man hours which had gone into the project.

The compound, he said, had been patented in 1973 and for the next three years 20 people were involved in detailed research work on it. The project moved into the development phase in 1975 and between then and 1978 an average of 60 people were involved, building up to a peak of about 80 in 1978. Thereafter the numbers dropped off again, until last year the laboratory was using about 25 people on Proxicromil.

The Proxicromil affair will do nothing to stem the arguments over drug pricing. The critics, many of whom would like to see the industry at least partially nationalized, will shed few tears for a company which managed to make nearly 60 per cent of its £11.1m profits in the first six months of last year out of a division which accounts for only 20 per cent of sales. If Proxicromil had become another Intal, they will point out. Fisons' drugs division would be able to look forward to another decade or more of what the critics see as unjustifiably high profits.

The drug companies could be forgiven for not seeing it quite that way. Fisons, after all, now spends between £9.5m and £10m a year on drug research and after many years of demanding and expensive work has just had to consign a prize project to the dustbin.

Malcolm Brown

Business Diary: Two into one ● Frozen asset

Yesterday's big changes bring to an end the unusual management structure whereby Midland Bank was led not by one but by two chief executives. Six years ago the board concluded that the world of banking had become too complex for one man to handle, so Malcolm Wilcox and Stuart Graham were put on a par to run the international and domestic operations respectively.

Now, with the retirement of Wilcox when he reaches 60 in June and the need to consolidate the bank's activities after a period of extensive change, Midland is appointing just one chief executive. Graham is taking on the job for the next year or so before he retires and under him will be John Brooks and Geoffrey Taylor, responsible for the day-to-day running of the two sides of the bank, and vying for the top slot in 1982.

Coming up fast on the inside track is John Harris who, still in his forties, takes on Taylor's old role in the international division. Insiders at Poultry see Harris as the next chief-but-one.

Another to figure in the changes is Michael Fuller, who becomes a general manager.

Wilcox, who joined as a junior clerk in 1938, bows out on a high note, having engineered the merger with San Francisco's Crocker National, the biggest ever foreign bank takeover in the United States.

Now all eyes are on who will be the next Midland chairman when caretaker Sir David Barran steps down in the next year or so.



"I'm wearing this shirt and collar to mark my sympathy with, and support for, Norman St John-Stevas."

● No one can accuse Paul Lichtenberg, the 69-year-old reactivated chief executive of Commerzbank, of not knowing what he wants. He has made it abundantly clear that Dr Walter Seipp, one of the two deputy executive board chairmen at the Westdeutsche Landesbank, is just the man to take over his position at the top of Germany's third largest private sector bank. The only *problem is that the* Westdeutsche Landesbank does not want to let Seipp go.

If banking were as discreet a profession as its practitioners like to pretend, such manoeuvrings would never become public But in Frankfurt this week Lichtenberg did not hesitate to describe Seipp as his "ideal" candidate to manage the troubled bank and let it be known that he had been pressing Westdeutsche Landesbank hard to release him

All of this can hardly be to the liking of the Westdeutsche Landesbank which is understood to have already refused to release Seipp in December of last year. Dr Seipp is undoubtedly an asset and he has played a big role in building up the Dusseldorf bank's foreign and Euromarket business since leaving the Deutschebank in Frankfurt some years ago.

Moreover, the Westdeutsche Landesbank has lost a lot of talent from its managing board over the past few years.

Dr Seipp would relish the Commerzbank job. Not only is he a man of great energy, but the Commerzbank would be his last chance of getting a top post in German banking. The change could have personal attractions as both he and his wife come from the Frankfurt area.

● Austin Callaghan is to take over from Bill Hyde this June as president of the 20,000-strong Institute of Cost and Management Accountants.

Callaghan, like Hyde, is a Liverpudlian and one moreover whose work has a cultural flavour.

Hyde is secretary to the Chest of Oxford University, among whose assets is the city's Playhouse Theatre. Callaghan is now financial controller of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society and perhaps one of the few accountants to have performed on the stage of the city's Philharmonic Hall.

Callaghan was not doing sums at the time, but singing in the chorus of the Archdiocesan Choral Society, formed 14 years ago for the opening of the Catholic cathedral there.

He went to the Phil last April (appropriately enough at the start of the financial year) after a stormy 14 years at the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company which took in financial crisis and capital reconstruction.

On arriving at the Phil, he found that, too, in financial crisis. Thus, while principal conductor David Atherton wielded his baton, Callaghan brandished his calculator to bring down the loss for this financial year to "a manageable size" and he plans to eliminate it next year.

One fortissimo note is that the Arts Council is increasing its £340,000 grant (about a third of turnover).

Callaghan, who sang at the Phil while accounting elsewhere, will now account elsewhere as a consultant now that he is working for the musicians.

● Frank Chapple is the thinking Tory's favourite trade union leader, first for his successful exposure of communist *malpractice in the union he* now heads and, since, for his advocacy of "moderation".

When Chapple, the general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Trade Union, wrote a piece on the latter theme in *Reader's Digest* some time ago it was widely noticed. Not so a guest column he contributes to the current issue of the monetarist *Journal of Economic Affairs*.

In this, Chapple takes to task Professor Hayek for his assertion that unions retard economic growth. Asking Hayek for evidence, Chapple says: "Like the philosophers of old, the conservative economists have no need to refer to the real world: they have a *theory* which tells them what the world is really like."

Chapple concludes, although he is unlikely to be heard except by readers of the journal or of Business Diary: "In the *real world trade union freedom* and personal freedom are inseparable." Even *Reader's Digest* might find that a little indigestible.

Tokyo University, I see, is to plant five saplings from the apple tree that first brought home the Law of Gravity to Cambridge alumnus Isaac Newton. Does this mean that the Japanese are working on a law of gravity that is more reliable and cheaper to run?

Ross Davies

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Oils, electricals and engineers lead the way down

Fears over the damaging consequences of the seamen's strike and the continued lack of institutional support saw equities continue to drift lower yesterday.

Dealers could only mark prices lower amid small nervous offerings, as analysts talked of the index dipping to the 420 mark by the end of the current account.

Oils were again a weak feature on the back of bearish weekend newspaper comment, but jobbers described turnover as minimal. Electricals too, came in for heavy selling after hours, and rumours of a major company in trouble did little for the engineering sector.

So with most of the major institutions staying on the sidelines, the *FT* Index was left to its own devices, closing at its low point for the day 7.7 down at 447.4.

A firmer trend was seen in gilts, where prices improved in a thin market on the back of just a handful of buying orders. In longs, gains of up to £½ were established, while in shorts prices reverted to unchanged on overnight levels.

Leading industrials spent the day with a massive hangover following the announcement the previous evening from Fisons that it was withdrawing its anti-asthma drug Proxicromil. Dealers said the announcement had taken the market by surprise and left it in a state of shock. The shares lost 30p to 138p, making a 50p fall in the last two days with several leading jobbers caught napping. Elsewhere, Glaxo dropped 10p to 242p amid fears of a similar situation developing, while Beechams shed 2p to 165p.

Rumours of a line of 400,000 shares overhanging the market had ICI 6p lower at 298p amid talk of a cut in the dividend when the group reports next month. Others to lose ground included **Dunlop** at 63p, **Hawker Siddeley** at 234p and **Lucas Industries** at 192p, all 2p lighter.

Note the renewed strength in shares of Tern-Consulate, the men's shirt and knitwear group, which held steady at 57p yesterday compared with the year's low of 22p. Mr Peter Barden, chairman, says he's mystified by the latest demand and is not interested in selling. But he admits that he has received at least four approaches for the company within the past year.

Talk of a leading engineering group with its back to the wall brought a cloud of gloom to engineering shares. **Tube Investments** tumbled 16p to 166p amid talk of a factory closure, while the prospect of GKN making a loss, according to one broker clipped 10p from the shares at 138p. **Vickers** was another weak market 5p easier at 131p.

Jobbers were baffled by the late heavy selling of oils which was directed at most of the majors. **GEC** closed 5p lower at 580p after being 2p higher on balance at 585p.

Falls were also seen in **Racal**, down 3p at 294p, **Plessey**, 2p to 260p, and **Ferranti**, 5p to 430p. Even **ICL**, which is believed to be about to ask the Government for cash assistance, had its rally cut short closing 4p lower at 50p, having been 1p better on the day. However, Thorn EMI, which reported recently, held steady at 304p. Among the second liners investment support lifted **Rediffusion** 2p to 120p.

The full-year figures from **SGB Group** were above most expectations, and the shares rose 8p to 136p, while in foods trebled profits saw **Somportex** leap 80p to 575p. But **Jones Stroud** eased 2p to 54p following a profits contraction, along with **Reo Stakis** 1½p to 50½p.

Recent figures had **Robert Lowe** another 2p stronger at 31p, but *THF*, awaiting figures next week, slipped 5p to 178p. In financials, a similar story had **Mercantile House** 12p dearer, in a thin market, at 575p as it carried **Britannia Arrow** 1½p higher at 43p.

News that it was talks which might lead to a bid stimulated shares of property group **Avenue Close**, 12p to 75p, with one broker reported to be bidding 78p in the market for one of its clients. The shares are tightly held and a bid would have to meet with the approval of its board.

In the meantime, fears that Enserch might withdraw its earlier offer saw shares of **Davy Corporation** retreat 7p to 159p. Enserch's cash and share offer is now thought to be worth considerably less since the recent setback on Wall Street pushed share values sharply lower and devalued the original offer. **Boustead** were again wanted, hardening 6p to 114p as wealthy Hongkong businessman *Mr Chang admitted that* his company Hendon Green held 6.5 per cent.

Shares in shipping group Stag Line have risen from 205p to a seven year high of 255p since the turn of the year, on growing speculation of a bid from Ropner Holdings. Recently Ropner topped up its holding in Stag to 29.97 per cent. Stag has just returned to profits and has stated net assets of 323p a share.

Speculative attention was also *directed at* **H. Goldman**, up 7p at 44p, and **Sumrie**, 3p to 25p. Mr Harvey Michael Ross has a large stake in both companies but was not buying yesterday. Others to attract attention included **M. J. Gleeson**, 3p to 55p and **John Crowther** 4p to 30p. The latter in the wake of *recent board changes.*

Leisure shares were in the doldrums after reports of a shortfall in the level of overseas holiday bookings. **Horizon Travel** lost 7p to 127p with **Saga Holidays**, another casualty, 5p to [illegible]. *The annual report from* **MAM** made gloomy reading and the shares tumbled 5p to 193p.

A bid denial lopped 6p from **Harris Queensway** in stores at 192p, as **Dixons Photographic** rose 1p to 134p ahead of figures due out soon. **House of Fraser** weakened 1p to 130p as it prepared for its boardroom tussle with Lonrho over sale and leaseback proposals.

Oils *continued to drift on* small offerings, with most shares closing at their low point for the day. **BP** shed 4p at 392p *despite good news on increased* Forties Field production, while **Shell** eased by a similar amount to 442p. **Ultramar** ended 3p lighter at 430p, **Lasmo** 10p to 702p, **Tricentrol** 6p to 310p, **Burmah** 2p to 181p and **Premier** 2½p to 93½p.

Equity turnover on January 12 was £78.000m (13,000 bargains). The most active stocks according to the Exchange Telegraph were *ICI*, *Royal Insurance*, Fisons, Tube Investments, BP, Bass, GEC, Marks and Spencer, Ultramar, BAT, Glynwed, BICC, Berisford, Boots, and Consolidated Gold Fields.

Traded options had another dull day with 638 contracts. BP saw most interest, and Marks and Spencer was also quite busy.

Traditional options were quiet too. Calls were arranged in Premier at 9½p and a put was done in Sears Holdings at 4p.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Fairdale (I)	3.0(3.3)	0.06(0.22)	0.48(1.75)	0.3(0.3)	—	—(1.5)
A & J Gelfer (I)	2.38(2.45)	0.38(0.4)	3.48(3.14)	1.6(1.5)	13/4	—(—)
Indnt Newsps (F*)	43.6(37.2)	3.05(4.06)	19.76(23.23)	7.0(6.6)	—	11.0(10.0)
Investors Capital (F)	—(—)	2.13(2.04)	3.45(3.3)	1.55(—)	12/3	3.05(2.5)
Jones Stroud (I)	14.19(15.0)	0.68(1.05)	3.65(7.12)	2(2)	10/4	—(3.2)
McMullen & Sons (F)	15.19(14.1)	1.2†(1.17†)	31.22(30.22)	1.81(—)	24/2	3.63(3.3)
Owen and Robsn (I)	0.45(0.55)	0.0009(0.01)	—(—)	6(6)	5/2	—(—)
SGB Group (F)	140(119)	16.3(14.5)	28.6(27.5)	3.0(2.83)	14/4	5.3(4.58)
Reo Stakis (F)	63.43(58.63)	3.44(3.56)	5.5(4.7)	1.0(0.91)	13/4	1.4(1.17)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. * = Irish currency. † = Net.

Jones, Stroud offer helps to maintain payout

By Margareta Pagano

Jones, Stroud the fabric manufacturer for the textile and electrical industries, is again offering shares in lieu of the maintained interim dividend. It hopes that these will be taken up by the family, which controls 50 per cent of the group.

As much as half of the £175,000 total dividend payments are expected to be distributed as shares to the family and trust. The share price yesterday dropped 2p to 54p on the interim results, and the shares to be offered at an extraordinary meeting on April 2 will be at 52p on current prices. The group made a similar offer after last year's full results to March, when a final gross dividend of 4.57p was declared. Mr Philip Jones, chairman, said the family took up its share last time, *saving the group half the* total cost of £280,000, and are expected to do so again.

This will be a help to the group, which reported pretax profits down by 47 per cent in the six months to September to £685,000. Sales also fell 6 per cent to £14.19m, reflecting the downturn in turnover in the textiles division. Interest charges were higher at £421,000 against £322,000 last time but tax was lower at £311,000.

Contraction within the group's textile division, which makes fabrics and accessories such as elastic for the clothing and textiles trade, has been noticeable for two to three years. But the effect of the drop in demand which started last April, rising costs and the exchange rate have added to the problems, he said. Traditionally, sales to the textile and electrical industries contribute about 50 per cent each to profits but this pattern has changed with the fall from textiles. Demand for goods by the electrical industries has held up reasonably well in terms of profits and sales.

Over the last year the number of employees have been reduced by 300 to 1,500 and most of the redundancies have been at textile concerns. Redundancy and closure costs are covered by an extraordinary item of £90,000, with a further £44,000 for exchange movements.

J. & J. Cash (Coventry), the nametapes concern, which last year made losses after export difficulties following a £1m investment programme, was trading at a loss at the halfway period. Reorganization included 60 redundancies and plans are continuing to reduce fixed costs and stock levels.

The Australian nametapes business proved to "be the one bright spot" on the textile side producing higher profits in the period.

Profits slip at Irish news group

Independent Newspapers, the Irish group which publishes the *Irish Independent*, the *Sunday Independent* and the Dublin *Evening Herald*, saw profits slip by a quarter last year.

With turnover climbing by 17 per cent in the year to December 31, 1980, from (Irish pounds) £37.2m to £43.6m pretax profit dipped from £4.1m to £3.1m. The decline in profits was sharpest in the second half as the group incurred start-up losses on its new outdoor advertising projects in France, and Germany and in magazine publishing in North America. Dr Tony O'Reilly, the chairman, said that these new ventures are expected to move into profitability in the current year.

The group paid £412,000 for a 30 per cent stake in the American International Radio partnership and in Noble Multimedia Communications last June. International, a California-registered partnership, has the exclusive licence to sell advertising time on a United States radio station based in Tijuana, Merico.

Francis set to proceed for Evered

Shares in Evered slipped 2p to 22½p yesterday in the wake of the board's reluctant recommendation of the 22p a share bid from Francis Industries. Board recommendation was one of the conditions of the bid.

Francis is preparing to proceed with the offer, although the Evered board did not recommend the preference share offer. However, Francis still has to be satisfied on a further condition: that Evered's share capital and reserves exceeded £2.2m at end-1980. The last published figure was £3.2m at end-1979 but Evered has made losses and sold assets since then.

Meanwhile, Birmingham stockbroker Murray & Co released details of recent share purchases by Zahid Industries & Investments and associates and Mohammed Mahmood Bahr. These Arab investors paid between 23.5p and 25.1p to take their stake to 24.88 per cent. Under takeover rules they can resume buying shares on Thursday if they wish.

Securicor acquisition

Security Services, where Securicor is the main shareholder with 51 per cent of the equity, yesterday strengthened its courier and parcel services in Ireland through its 51 per cent acquisition of Purolator Ireland.

The group is paying a total of £473,000 for the Irish concern, operating guard and freight services in both Ulster and the Republic of Ireland, of which £315,000 is to be paid by the issue of 194,000 "A" shares. The cash balance is payable to the vendors if Purolator reaches profit targets of about £250,000 set for the year to September 1981. Net assets of Purolator last June were £636,000 and pretax profits to last September were £109,000.

Mr Peter Smith, chairman of Security Services, said the group's present business in Ireland was mainly security services, and the purchase would expand its freight trade. Purolator would continue trading separately and all employees were safeguarded.

An option agreement covers the sale of the remaining 49 per cent, to be exercised by either the vendor or Security Services after four and five years. This will be based upon an agreed formula as to average profits over the next three years.

Briefly

Yorkgreen Investments: Energy, Finance and General Trust Holdings has disposed of 50,000 ordinary shares which reduces shareholding in the company to below 5 per cent.

Raine Engineering Industries: has acquired General Housing (Derby) based at Toton, Nottingham for £132,000 cash. General Housing has three sites in Nottingham/Derby area near to group's development at Littlelover and its current development at Whitemoor Meadows, Belper.

Peter Brotherhood: Rights issue accepted as to over 95 per cent.

***Local Authority Bonds**: Interest rate on this week's issues of Local Authority Yearling bonds is 13⅞ per cent. Issue price is 100. (Last week 13¾ per cent at 100).*

***Investors Capital Trust**:* Gross revenue for year to November 30 £4.52m (£4.58m). Net revenue £2.13m (£2.04m). Eps 3.45p (3.30p). Dividend 3.05p net (2.50p *plus* 0.40p).

A. and J. Gelfer: Interim 1.6p net (1.5p). Turnover half year to September *30* £2.38m (£2.45m). Profit £218,000 (£196,000) after tax of £162,000 (£213,900). Eps 3.48p (3.14p).

Owen and Robinson: Interim held at 6p net. Turnover for half year to November 30 £455,000 (£554,000). Pretax profit £974 (£11,000).

***McMullen and Sons**: Net dividend* 3.63p (3.3p). For year to September 27. Turnover £15.19m (£14.12m). Profit after tax but before extraordinary items £1.2m (£1.17m). Credit extraordinary items £339,000 (£47,000). Eps 31.22p (30.22p).

Fairdale Textiles: Pre-tax profits for half-year to July 26 (£65,000 (£222,000) *on turnover £3m* (£3.3m). Interim dividend maintained at 0.43p gross.

F. H. Lloyd: Cooper Industries has acquired a further 400,000 *shares raising its stake* to 21.7 per cent.

Mitsubishi 8 pc ahead

International

Mitsubishi Corporation reports a consolidated net income 8 per cent up at 22,610m yen (£44.2m) for the half year ended September 30, on sales of 7,250bn yen against 5,600bn.

Mitsubishi's earnings statement showed that sales *rose* substantially in all categories. Those from exports went up 24.3 per cent from the year before to 1,207bn yen, while im*ports totalled* 2,360bn yen—a 39.9 per cent year-to-year gain.

Sales from trade transactions among other countries came to 722,231m yen for a 49 per cent increase. Domestic sales, accounting for 40.8 per cent of business, were put at 2,956bn yen, up 20.1 per cent.

By product, sales of crude oil and other fuel, representing 25.8 per cent of total sales, were 1,870bn yen, a sharp 68.1 per cent increase. Those of steel *products came to* 1,194bn yen, going up 14.9 per cent and accounting for 16.5 per cent of sales. Machinery sales were 1,075bn yen, up 16.5 per cent.

Mitsubishi officials said that the increase in the price of oil and sales of various products on a broad front helped their companies overcome setbacks resulting from rising operating expenses and heavier interest burdens stemming from boosts in the official discount rates during the period.

Elf-Aquitaine

Elf-Aquitaine reports a consolidated net profit of 4,300m francs (£394m) in the first nine months of 1980. This compares with 5,570m francs for the whole of 1979.

No comparable nine-month figures for 1979 are available because last year was the first time the company published quarterly results.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Far East group claims 22 pc holding in Renwick

By Philip Robinson

Kangra International Holdings, the mystery Hongkong-based concern which has been building a stake in the Renwick Group, announced yesterday it had bought a further 4.99 per cent, and now owns 22.52 per cent of the fuel distribution to travel agents company.

Despite a number of attempts by Renwick directors and their financial advisers Samuel Montagu, little is known of the *Far East off-the-shelf* company formed last April. Last week a meeting between Montagu directors and Kangra was expected to take place but it is now understood that Kangra's representative has returned to Hongkong.

Kangra's frenetic buying of *Renwick* started the day before Christmas Eve with the group spending £1.1m in the stock market. It continued to buy at prices around 85p. It is understood that there was a buying order for 500,000 Renwick shares at 68p in the market on Monday.

The share buying was a major factor in AAH Group, dropping its £7.3m takeover bid for Renwick last week. All *Kangra deals* have been done through London stockbrokers, A. J. Bekhor.

Kangra's stake now virtually equals that of the combined shareholding said to be held by six unrelated clients of the UTO Bank of Zurich, which also has 200,000 shares

The Takeover *Panel*, which has also been showing interest in the Kangra buying, said in a statement before Christmas that there was no evidence to think that the UTO Bank's clients were acting together.

The UTO Bank says each of its clients holds less than 5 per cent. *The Panel said that* there was no evidence of a breach in the disclosure rules.

Boustead leaps on news of Hongkong group's stake

By Catherine Gunn

A Hongkong nominee company, Hendon Green, now owns 6.53 per cent of the British *overseas trader and plantation* group Boustead. The news sent Boustead's shares to a new 114p high yesterday, which is thought to have put a temporary halt to recent Malaysian buying, carried out around the 100p a share level.

Hendon Green is reported to be the investment vehicle of a wealthy Malay-Chinese businessman called Mr Chang. It noti*fied Boustead of a 5 per cent* stake last month, and revealed the higher stake to it last week.

Rumours continued yesterday that *Sime* Darby might be behind the share buying, now that it has formally abandoned its pursuit of Guthrie Corporation. *But its* London office was ignorant of any links between Hendon Green and Sime Darby last night; while Mr Chang is said to have the resources to make a bid on his own behalf if he wishes.

Meanwhile, another British company, Warren Plantation, is under pressure from a group of shareholders, to reconsider its diversification plans.

The Belgian plantation company *S. A. Sipef NV* and others, including RIT (formerly Rothschild Investment Trust(, have topped up their stake in Warren to 25.4 per cent of the enlarged post-rights capital. Sipef itself has 12.7 per cent. The concert party is disturbed by *Warren's recent moves away* from plantations into industry, and wants to discourage further shifts, Baron Bracht, Sipef's chairman said yesterday.

Sipef and Warren, which are similar in size, are partners with the government of Papua New Guinea in an oil palm plantation, and both have interests in Indonesia. Baron Bracht could not say whether the concert party would consider *bidding* for Warren, but confirmed that he hopes to discuss the future with Warren soon.

Ice drink boosts Somportex

Somportex, the Middlesex-based confectionery and delicatessen group, continues to see its fortunes transformed by "Slush Puppie", the ice drink *launched* in the United Kingdom less than two years ago.

The group yesterday reported pretax profits more than trebled to £728,000 in the six months to October 31. Its shares spiralled 80p to a new high of 575p in a narrow market despite a warning that poor Easter sales will depress second-half profits on the general confectionery side. Last year, the shares, which are 65 per cent held by family interests and directors, were as low as 78p.

Turnover excluding VAT in the interim period was up from £3m to £4.4m. Earnings per share rose from 15.5p to 49.9p.

C A Sperati proposes to go private

The board of C. A. Sperati notes that under the new Companies Act the minimum allotted *share capital must be* £50,000. The companies capital is only £25,000 and it there*fore does not comply with this* requirement.

The directors say that in their view the costs of increasing the capital, and the continuing cost of maintaining the companies share quotation, are not justified because they do not produce any significant benefit to *the company or the share*holders, and they therefore propose to re-register as a private company.

*No steps will be taken to re*register the company until after the annual meeting when the proposal will be tabled for discussion.

Recession casts its shadow over MAM

At Management Agency and Music, Mr Gordon Mills, chairman, says that all divisions are trading satisfactorily, but the board feels that the current recession with its associated problems, and rising unemployment, must have an increasingly *adverse effect on all business* undertakings. Therefore, some small reduction in profits is *likely to become unavoidable* as the year progresses.

This could well be cushioned to some extent, however, by a hoped-for boost in amusement machine rents later in the year.

Aberdeen Investments buys services group

Aberdeen Investments has made is first acquisition in the field of financial services. It has agreed to acquire SCH Financial Services, an insurance and financial planning group which manages investment funds of about £5m.

Net profit before tax of SCH for the year to March 31 was £44,000 and net assets were £94,000.

The initial consideration will be £94,000, represented by 30,000 new ordinary shares in Aberdeen Investments and £43,000 cash.

The acquisition will enable Aberdeen to expand into finan*cial service activities which* the directors expect to produce above-average growth.

Attwood buys car cleaning group

Attwood Garages, which has recently been acquired by the British Car Auction group, has bought the majority 55 per cent stake in Car Cleaning Services for £36,000.

This acquisition is due to be *followed by a second, slightly* larger, purchase which will be announced tomorrow, said Mr Thomas Marriott, the newly-appointed chief executive.

Car Cleaning Services, a London-based private company whose directors hold the remaining 45 per cent stake, made pretax profits of £13,000 last year on turnover of £545,000. Its net asset value at January 31, 1980, was £22,000. Mr Marriott said it should be able to increase its turnover considerably through new motor trade contacts at Attwood. "The company could also move into cleaning a wider range, including buildings and offices," he said.

The closure of BCA's offer for Attwood has also resulted in Mr Richard Attwood, the chairman since last July and Mr Anthony Attwood, his brother, becoming non-executive directors.

At present the two men are considering an offer of compensation to retire from the board, said Mr Marriott. "It became clear when they sold their shares that they were no longer interested", he said. *Mr Marriott relieved the Att*woods of their executive duties last week, soon after the publication of the group's £104,000 pretax loss for the first half. In 1979 Attwood made an interim profit of £34,000.

Mr Geoffrey Skyrme has been appointed a director of Attwood Garages and will be responsible for the Talbot and Vauxhall franchises.

Mr Marriott added that he fully expected the group to improve on last year's £73,000 pretax profit.

Business appointments

Senior changes at Midland Bank

Mr M. G. Wilcox will retire as a chief general manager on June 30 and will continue as a member of the Midland Bank board, chairman of Forward Trust Group and Samuel Montagu. Mr S. T. Graham, a director and chief general manager, will, upon Mr Wilcox's retirement, assume sole responsibility as chief executive of the group assisted by Mr G. W. Taylor and Mr J. A. Brooks, who are directors and deputy chief general managers. Mr Taylor's present responsibility as chief executive, Midland Bank International will, with effect from July 1, be assumed by Mr J. G. Harris, a general manager, who will become a director and assistant chief general manager. Mr J. D. Greenwell, a general manager, will also become a director and assistant chief general manager at that time. Mr B. L. *Goldthorpe*, a general manager, has been made a senior general manager from July 1, when he will assume the responsibilities of chief executive, Forward Trust Group, in succession to Mr Harris. Mr K. B. Cox, a general manager, becomes a senior general manager with effect from February 1. Mr M. T. J. Wallis, an assistant general manager, has been made a general manager from February 1. Mr G. D. Smith, a regional director, becomes a general manager from March 1. Mr M. J. Fuller, a regional director, has been made a general manager from July 1.

Mr S. J. D. Coleridge is now a director of Barclays Merchant Bank, where he will head the group shipping department.

Mr R. H. Lamb, Mr J. G. Lee and Mr D. M. Veit have joined the board of S. Pearson & Son.

Mr James G. Davis, a director of Kleinwort, Benson has been elected president of the Chartered Institute of Transport for 1981/82, and will take office on October 5, 1981.

Mr W. W. Huggins has been made deputy chairman of Polnton York (Holdings).

Mr Elliott Mark Gartner becomes a director and senior executive resident in the United States of Morgan Grenfell Investment Services.

Mr Geoffrey Anderson has resigned from the board of Laing Properties to become managing director of the Viking Property Group from March 2.

Mr A. R. B. Samson has joined M.E.L. as commercial director.

Mr P. J. McGloin and Mr G. R. Realf have been made directors *of Sedgwick Aviation.*

Mr Melvin H. Keeler and Mr Fred Lewis have become directors of Reed Decorative Products. Mr William H. G. Wilks will take up the post of finance director on April 1 and will join the board on that date.

Mr J. N. Butterwick, Mr B. N. *Kelly, Lord Kindersley and Mr T.* J. Manners have been made vice-chairmen of Lazard Brothers and Company, and Mr R. J. Feilden becomes a vice-chairman of Lazard Securities. *Mr M. A. P. Agius*, the Hon M. D'a. Benson, Mr J. A. Kitchen and Mr C. B. Melluish are now executive directors of Lazard Brothers. Mr J. A. B. Joll and *Mr M. J. Roberts* become directors, and Messrs G. G. Bell, T. Cross Brown, J. W. Sillem and I. Wiseman have been made assistant directors of the company. At *the end of January* Mr E. W. Phillips will retire as an executive director but will remain a director, and in April Mr E. W. T. Barnes will retire and Mr S. H. Wright *will leave to take up another* appointment.

Mr David Evans is now chairman of Sweet and Maxwell on the resignation of Mr Peter Allsop. Sweet and *Maxwell* operates as the legal and professional publishing division of Associated Book Publishers (UK). Other responsibilities of Mr Allsop and *Mr Evans, on the group board* and within the United Kingdom, remain unaltered.

Mr P. J. C. Firth is now deputy managing director of Johnson *Matthey Bankers. Mr M. J. Olliff*-Lee becomes manager, bullion, and Mr A. J. A. Stoppard is now chief dealer, bullion.

Mr Tommaso Zanzotto has been named by *American Express* as senior vice-president to head travel division activities in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Mr Michael Seymour is now finance director of *Simon* Container Machinery. Mr Ken Frost is now production director and Mr Peter Horton becomes technical director. Mr Ken Cook has been made managing director of Simon Food Engineers. Dr Ray Taylor is the new technical director of Simon-Vicars.

Mr E. M. Gartner becomes a director and senior executive, resident in the United States, of *Morgan Grenfell Investment* Services.

Professor Sir Samuel Frederick Edwards has joined the board of *Lucas Industries*. Mr J. J. Righton has retired from the board.

Mr R. G. Rickard has joined the board of Usher-Walker.

Mr Victor Strachan has joined the *board of Redifon Simulation* as commercial director.

Mr Nigel D. P. Chamberlayne-Macdonald has been made chairman of Wellco Holdings on the death of Mr Robert S. Landin. Mr John W. F. Holman has become chief executive and Mr Gordon Hazzard is now a non-executive director.

The chairman of Blundell-Permoglaze Holdings, Mr Guy Bassett Smith, is to retire at the annual meeting on March 11. He will be succeeded by Mr R. L. White.

Mr David Spilsbury has been made financial director of Century Oils, a post previously held by Mr Alan Greenhalgh, who continues as financial director of Century Oils Group. Mr Spilsbury retains his post as company secretary to Century Oils.

Mr Duncan S. Gee is now joint managing director of the Aygee Group.

Mr J. D. Oliver has joined Markon Engineering as director of sales and marketing. Mr V. A. Lilly has joined as director of development. Mr W. E. Hemmings becomes director of finance.

Mr John Kershaw is the new managing director of James W. Cook & Company (Wivenhoe). He succeeds Mr George Smith, who has retired.

Mr Neil J. Morrow has been elected as a *corporate vice-president by the board of directors of* The Singer Company. Mr Morrow is president of the company's European sewing products division, headquartered in *Maidenhead.*

Mr O. N. Dawson and Mr J. R. Mathias have been made executive directors of F. & C. Management.

Mr Neil Tasker becomes merchandise director of E. Upton and Son.

Yearly premiums up 16 pc to £1,860m in 1980

The new yearly premium figures for life assurance and annuities *annouiced by the life associations* show an increase in 1980 of 16 per cent to £1,860m, compared with a 17 per cent increase in 1979.

Single premiums decreased slightly from £662m to £658m. New sums assured increased by 17 per cent from £51,000m to £59,900m and new annuities by 11 per cent from £1,610m to £1,788m per annum.

There were quite considerable differences between the results *reported by individual life offices* but, overall, the industries' new business figures broadly kept up with the rate of inflation experienced over the 12-month period.

Results announced include:

Provident Mutual: Provident Mutual strides into the 1980s with a most encouraging performance considering economic conditions. In 1980, the new annual premium business for Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association increased by 10.7 per cent to £24.4m (from £22.1m) although its single premium business is 3 per cent lower at £9.5m (£9.9m). The 1980 results again confirm the Provident Mutual's position as a leading pensions office with new pension and group life annual premiums increased by 12 per cent to £19.5m (£17.4m) and single premiums by 16 per cent to £7.1m (£6.1m).

New Life Business

Provident Mutual record bonuses: Record bonuses have been announced by Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association, made possible *by a sustained period of excellent investment returns. For the* majority of company and executive pension schemes, the annual bonus rate in deferment has been increased to 10.15 per cent *compound from* 9.00 per cent last year, giving a growth rate on pension funds of 13.73 per cent per annum compound. A similar underlying *growth is available to self*-employed pension policies but bonuses are expressed differently to recognize the flexibility of the pension age under this type of contract. *Bonuses for these poli*cies have been increased to 9.40 per cent per annum compound from 8.25 per cent and there is a final bonus of 15 per cent of *all bonuses added* to age 65.

Royal London Mutual Insurance: Ordinary branch: New annual premiums on policies effected in 1980 amount to a record £5.63m compared with *£4.57m in 1979*. New sums assured totalled £236.14m net against £157.42m net in 1979. Single premiums and considerations for annuities totalled £224,000 (1979 £353,000). *Industrial* branch: New annual premiums for 1980 were £7.39m compared with £7.11m in 1979. New sums assured totalled £151.85m net, against £117.32m net in 1979. Special final bonus: The special final bonus has been extended to include a further year of entry with effect from January 1, 1981. The rates of bonus for years of entry 1945 and later are increased, whilst rates for earlier years of entry remain unaltered.

Sun Life Group: Sun Life Assurance Society Group announces record new business results for 1980 with total new premiums for the group amounting to £74.3m (1979—£63.8m). This comprised annual premiums of *£36.1m* (£34.4m) and single premiums of £38.2m (£29.4m).

A breakdown of the figures is set out below:

Pensions business: Pensions-related business amounted to new annual premiums of £26.4m (£23.9m) and single premiums of £16.9m (£11.5m). These figures include the following categories of business: Group pensions including managed funds: New annual premiums of £19.0m (£17.2m) and single premiums of £4.2m (£3.5m). Non-group pensions, including executive pensions: New annual permiums of £5.8m (£6.1m) and single premiums of *£3.5m* (£3.4m). Pensions for the self-employed: New annual premiums of £0.6m (£0.7m) and single premiums of £1.5m (£1.8m).

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000 12%, over £50,000 13½%.

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	64	—	6.7	10.5	5.8
39	21	Armitage & Rhodes	36	—	1.4	3.8	14.8
192	92½	Bardon Hill	189	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
87	46	County Cars Pref	46	—	7.6	16.5	—
98	88	Deborah Services	96	—	5.5	5.7	4.8
126	88	Frank Horsell	117	—	7.9	6.8	3.7
110	59	Frederick Parker	59	—	11.0	18.6	2.7
110	74	George Blair	75	—	3.1	4.1	—
110	59	Jackson Group	110	—	6.9	6.3	4.2
124	103	James Burrough	121	—	7.9	6.5	9.9
330	244	Robert Jenkins	330	—	31.3	9.5	—
53	50	Scruttons 'A'	53	—	5.3	10.0	3.8
224	216	Torday Limited	219	—	15.1	6.9	3.7
23	10	Twinlock Ord	13½	—	—	—	—
90	69	Twinlock 15% ULS	78	—	15.0	19.2	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	37	—	3.0	8.1	3.8
102	81	Walter Alexander	102	—	5.7	5.5	5.6
255	181	W. S. Yeates	253	—	12.1	4.8	4.1

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER closed steadier.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £786-788 a metric ton: three months, £807-808. Sales, 53,875. Cash cathodes, £766-768: three months, £787-789. Sales, 50 tons. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £783-784.00: three months, £802.50-803.50. Settlement, £784.00. Sales, 12,500 tons. Cash cathodes, £763-765.50: three months, £783-783.50. Settlement, £765.50. Sales, 975 tons.

TIN.—Standard tin was weak.—Afternoon.—Standard cash, £6,075-6,085 a tonne: three months, £6,215-6,220. Sales, 510 tonnes. High grade, cash, £6,075-6,085: three months, £6,215-6,225. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard cash, £6,125-6,135: three months, £6,250-6,255. Settlement, £6,135. Sales, 380 tonnes. High grade, cash, £6,125-6,135: three months, £6,250-6,260. Settlement, £6,135. Sales, nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works fell by 36 cents yesterday to 32.35 ringgit per kilo.

LEAD was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash £302-303 per tonne: three months, £313.50-315. Sales, 1,600 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £301-302: three months, £313.50-314.00. Settlement £302.00. Sales, 6,550 tonnes.

ZINC was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £335-335.50 per tonne: three months, £346-346.50. Sales, 1,250 tonnes. Morning.—Cash £332-334.00: three months £345-346. Settlement, £334.00. Sales, 6,950 tonnes.

PLATINUM was at £233.00 ($554.00) a troy ounce.

SILVER was steady.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot, 626.55p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 1,496.20); three months, 648.05p (1,566.10c); six months, 671.20p (1,630.40c); one year, 716.00p (1,742.00c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 625.5-627.5p; three months, 647-647.0p. Sales, 64 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 628.5-630.5p: three months, 650-652.0p. Settlement, 630.5p. Sales, 64 lots.

ALUMINIUM was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £604.50-605.50 per tonne: three months, £625-625.50. Sales, 3,975 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £602-604.00: three months, £625-625.50. Settlement, £604.00. Sales, 4,050 tonnes.

NICKEL was steady, quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash, £2,715-2,725 per tonne: three months, £2,700-2,705. Sales, 72 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £2,710-2,720; three months, £2,700-2,705. Settlement, £2,730. Sales, 114 tonnes.

RUBBER was easier (pence per kilo): Feb, 56.70-57.10: March, 58.20-58.30: April-June, 61.00-61.10: July-Sept, 64.00-64.10: Oct-Dec, 67.00-67.10: Jan-Mar, 70.00-70.10: April-June, 72.90-73.10: July-Sept, 75.90-76.10: Oct-Dec, 78.90-79.00. Sales, seven at five tonnes each and 368 at 15 tonnes each.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were easier.—Spot, 57.00-58.50. Cifs: Feb, 61.00-61.50: March, 61.50-61.75.

COFFEE.—ROBUSTAS (£ per tonne): Jan, 1032-1040: March, 1056-1058: May, 1069-1070: July, 1076-1077: Sept, 1089-1092: Nov, 1091-1094. Jan, 1090-1100. Sales: 3,644 lots, including 11 options.

ARABICA (officials at 16.45): Feb, 142.50-43.50: April, 145.00-46.00: June, 146.00-48.00: Aug, 147.00-49.00: Oct, 148.00-50.00: Dec, 148.00-50.00: Feb, 148.00-50.00. Sales: nil.

COCOA closed about steady (£ per metric ton).—March, 852-54: May, 877-78: July, 901-03: Sept, 924-25: Dec, 953-54: March, 977-78: May, 994-1000. Sales: 2,614 lots.

SUGAR.—The London daily price of "raws" was £10.00 lower at £280; the "whites" price was £21.00 lower at £300. Futures (£ per tonne): March, 297.00-97.25: May, 296.50-97.00: Aug, 288.50-89.00: Oct, 277.75-80.00: Jan, 257.00-60.00: March, 255.00-56.00: May, 252.00-56.00. Sales: 11,523 lots. Tone: steady. ISA prices (Jan 12): daily, 28.05c; 15-day average, 30.10c.

SOYABEAN MEAL was slightly easier (£ per tonne):—Feb, 131.60-132.00: April, 135.10-135.30: June, 136.20-136.30: Aug, 137.00-137.90: Oct, 135.00-135.10: Dec, 135.00-135.50: Feb, 133.50-138.00. Sales: 185 lots.

WOOL.—NZ Crossbreds, No 2 contract, cents per kilo (quiet):—Jan, 340-352: March, 353-357: May, 357-363: Aug, 368-372: Oct, 372-375: Dec, 378-381: Jan, 378-382: March, 382-384: May, 385-387. Sales: 13 lots.

GRAIN. (The Baltic).—**WHEAT.**—Canadian western red spring, unquoted. United States dark northern spring, No 2, 14 per cent: Feb, £110.50: March, £110.65 trans-shipment east coast seller. United States hard winter, 13½ per cent: Feb, £105.50: March, £106.25 trans-shipment east coast. EEC, unquoted. English feed, fob: April-June, £115.00 east coast.

MAIZE.—United States—French: unquoted. French: Jan, £121; Feb, £122.50 east coast. South African white, unquoted. South African yellow: Feb-March, £89.50.

BARLEY.—English feed, fob: Jan, £100: Feb, £102.25: March, £103.75: April, £106: April-June, £107.50. All per tonne cif United Kingdom unless stated.

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta). EEC origin.—BARLEY was easier.—Jan, £95.60: March, £98.40: May, £102.35: Sept, £96.20: Nov, £100.00. Sales: 201 lots.

WHEAT was barely steady.—Jan, £103.80: March, £106.85: May, £110.90: July, £114.90: Sept, £101.10: Nov, £104.90. Sales: 229 lots.

Home Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices:

	Other MILLING WHEAT	FEED WHEAT	FEED BARLEY
S. East	—	£101.30	£94.60
S. West	—	£101.50	£96.20
W. Midlands	—	£100.70	£95.90
N. West	£105.00	—	£96.30

MEAT COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Jan 13. GB: Cattle, 84.58p per kg lw (+1.94). UK: Sheep, 134.91p per kg est dcw (−6.47). GB: Pigs, 64.59p per kg lw (−1.27). England and Wales: Cattle nos. up 2.7 per cent, ave. price, 84.45p (+1.80). Sheep nos. down 6.5 per cent, ave. price 135.97p (−6.06). Pig nos. down 1.7 per cent, ave. price, 64.57p (−1.05). Scotland: Cattle nos. up 29.5 per cent, ave. price, 85.05p (+3.47). Sheep nos. up 24.8 per cent, ave. price, 135.05p (−10.88). Pig nos. up 30.5 per cent, ave. price, 64.74p (−3.29).

POTATOES (Gafta): Feb, no trades: April, £63.60: Nov, £55.50. Sales: 84 lots (of 40 tonnes each).

EGGS (The London Egg Exchange): Home-produced: A steady demand with supplies of most sizes available and some discounts being taken to clear. Imported: Prices have eased due to holiday build-up in supplies. Home-produced market prices (in £ per 120, based on trading packer first-hand):

	Wed/Thur/Fri	Mon/Tues
Brown		
1s	5.60 to 5.80	5.40 to 5.80
2s	5.00 to 5.15	4.90 to 5.10
3s	4.70 to 4.95	4.65 to 4.80
4s	4.30 to 4.50	4.30 to 4.50
White		
1s	5.20 to 5.50	5.10 to 5.20
2s	4.80 to 5.00	4.80 to 4.95
3s	4.50 to 4.80	4.50 to 4.60
4s	4.30 to 4.40	4.20 to 4.30
5s	3.90 to 4.10	3.80 to 4.00
6s	3.40 to 3.60	3.40 to 3.60
7s	2.80 to 3.00	2.80 to 3.00

Imported prices (in £)

	Current Arrivals
French brown	
1s	5.40 to 5.50
2s	4.90 to 5.00

All prices quoted are for bulk delivery in Keyes trays. The above range is a guide to general market conditions and is dependent upon location, quantity and whether delivered or not.

Ivory Coast cocoa sales

Cocoa sales by the Ivory Coast at £20 to £25 a tonne below Ghana prices caused trading in London to slip at one stage yesterday to the lowest price since October, 1976. At the end of the day, March cocoa closed £8 down at £853.

After last week's remarks by the Ivory Coast that it intends to renegotiate the International Cocoa Agreement, Ghana radio has reported Accra's support for endorsement by the Cocoa Producers' Alliance of the agreement.

Discount market

Very comfortable conditions prevailed in the discount market yesterday, houses ruling off their books at the end of the day without assistance from the Bank of England. In fact, most of the houses were close to, or had even reached, their target figure by mid-session, taking sizable sums during the morning at rates between 13 and 13½ per cent. Final balances were taken in a band of 11 to 12 per cent.

Foreign exchange report

Firming United States interest rates and continued hopes of an early release of the Iranian hostages kept the dollar on an upward path yesterday, though best levels were not held. Trade was brisk at times, dealers reported, particularly in the afternoon when New York came in and the pound and mark dollar-rates fluctuated rapidly.

After extremes of $2.3910 and $2.3850, the pound ended 100 points lower at $2.3885 against the dollar, though gains over other major currencies enabled "trade-weighted" sterling to remain at 79.3 (unchanged) throughout.

Fresh demand brought gains to the dollar from the start, sentiment also aided by "Fred" chairman, Mr Paul Volcker's overnight comments on tighter money and credit curbs.

After an attempted rally at mid-session, the mark closed near the bottom of the day at 2.0005.

The dollar also advanced over the Swiss franc, 1.8117 (1.8015), the guilder, 2.1742 (2.1515), the French franc, 4.6275 (4.5910) and the lira, 951.00 (939.00).

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) January 13	Market rates (close) January 13	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.3850-3920	$2.3880-3890	1.25-1.35c disc	2.70-2.80c disc
Montreal	$2.8390-8480	$2.8415-8425	1.00-1.10c disc	2.15-2.30c disc
Amsterdam	5.17½-20½fl	5.18¾-19¾fl	2⅛-1⅛c prem	6⅞-5⅞c prem
Brussels	76.60-77.05f	76.75-85f	21-11c prem	47-37c prem
Copenhagen	14.65-72k	14.68-69k	230-45ore prem	par-185ore prem
Dublin	1.2760-2820p	1.2780-90p	11p prem-2p disc	27-11p prem
Frankfurt	4.76-80m	4.77½-78½m	2⅛-1¾pf prem	6⅜-5⅜pf prem
Lisbon	127.10-128.90e	128.50-70e	15-70c disc	20-175c disc
Madrid	192.30-193.00p	192.60-70p	15c prem-40c disc	145-230c disc
Milan	2267-72lr	2268½-69½lr	2¼-4¼lr disc	15¼-18¼lr disc
Oslo	12.37-41k	12.38½-39½k	425-275ore prem	1055-880ore prem
Paris	11.03-08f	11.05-06f	4-3c prem	7⅜-6⅜c prem
Stockholm	10.56-62k	10.59¼-60¼k	365-460ore disc	1110-1205ore disc
Tokyo	483.90y	484½-85½y	355-285y prem	755-690y prem
Vienna	33.70-95sch	33.75-80sch	0.09-0.06gro prem	26-21gro prem
Zurich	4.31-35f	4.32-33f	4-3c prem	9¼-8¼c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to December 21, 1971 was 79.3%, unchanged.

Other Markets

Australia	2.0155-2.0335
Bahrein	0.8985-0.9015
Finland	9.2040-9.2440
Greece	110.25-112.25
Hongkong	12.3210-12.3510
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.6475-0.6505
Malaysia	5.2935-5.3235
Mexico	55.00-58.50
New Zealand	2.4790-2.4990
Saudi Arabia	7.9365-7.9665
Singapore	4.9530-5.0130
South Africa	1.7530-1.7930

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	79.3	−25.0
US dollar	87.0	−7.1
Canadian dollar	79.7	−18.5
Schilling	146.3	+22.0
Belgian franc	111.0	+10.7
Danish kroner	101.3	−8.0
Deutsche mark	145.6	+39.5
Swiss franc	186.6	+76.4
Guilder	107.7	+17.2
French franc	96.1	−8.3
Lira	49.9	−52.9
Yen	145.0	+42.1

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. (Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.8690-1.8720
† Canada	1.1896-1.1899
Netherlands	2.1735-2.1750
Belgium	32.15-32.18
Denmark	6.1450-6.1500
West Germany	1.9998-2.0005
Portugal	53.65-53.80
Spain	80.60-80.70
Italy	950.00-952.00
Norway	5.1850-5.1900
France	4.6260-4.6290
Sweden	4.4325-4.4375
Japan	203.00-203.20
Austria	14.14-14.16
Switzerland	1.8110-1.8125

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 : US $0.8401-0.8404

Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 14%

(Last changed 24/11/80)

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%

Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 13¼ Low 10

Week Fixed: 13¼

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	12⁵⁄₁₆	2 months	12¹³⁄₁₆
3 months	12⁵⁄₁₆	3 months	12²¹⁄₃₂

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

2 months	13²⁷⁄₃₂-13¾	3 months	14½
3 months	13²¹⁄₃₂-13⁹⁄₁₆	4 months	14¼
4 months	13³⁄₁₆-13⁵⁄₁₆	6 months	13⅞
6 months	12¹⁵⁄₁₆-12¹³⁄₁₆		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15⅞-15⅛	7 months	14⅞-14⅛
2 months	15⅞-15⅛	8 months	14⅞-14⅛
3 months	15-14⅝	9 months	14¼-14
4 months	14¾-14½	10 months	14¼-14
5 months	14⅝-14⅜	11 months	14¼-14
6 months	14⅞-14⅛	12 months	13⅞-13⅝

Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)

1 month	13⅞-13⅛	6 months	13⅞-13¹¹⁄₁₆
3 months	14⅜-14¼	12 months	13⁷⁄₁₆-13⁵⁄₁₆

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14	3 months	14⅞
7 days	14⅛	6 months	14
1 month	14⅛	1 year	13⅞

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open 13¾-13½ Close 13

1 week	14-13¾	6 months	14-13¹³⁄₁₆
1 month	14⅞-14⅛	9 months	13⅞-13¹¹⁄₁₆
3 months	14⅜-14⅛	12 months	13¹¹⁄₁₆-13⅝

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)

3 months 14⅞ 6 months 14½

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate†	% change adjusted†*	divergence limit % plus/minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.4533	+4.18	+0.78	1.53
Danish krone	7.7236	7.91578	+2.49	−0.91	1.64
German D-mark	2.48208	2.57256	+3.65	+0.25	1.125
French franc	5.84700	5.96006	+1.93	−1.47	1.3557
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.79775	+1.97	−1.43	1.512
Irish punt	0.668201	0.690833	+3.39	−0.01	1.665
Italian lira	1157.79	1225.31	+5.83	+2.43	4.08

† changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 19⅞-20¼: seven days, 20-20½: one month, 19⅞-20⅛: three months, 18¾-19; six months, 17⅞-17⁵⁄₁₆.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $566 (an ounce); pm, $562.75 close, $564.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $581-583 (£243.25-244.25).
Sovereigns (new): $143-145 (£59.75-60.75).

Wall Street

New York, Jan 13.—Prices on the New York Stock Exchange closed lower as the NYSE index lost 0.17 to 75.35 and the average price per share 9 cents.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 3.67 to 965.10. Declines led advances 999 to 571 as turnover slowed to 40,890,000 shares from 48,760,000 yesterday.

Data General reported fiscal first quarter earnings per share fell to 81 cents from $1.15 before an extraordinary gain of 48 cents a share from the sale of securities. The stock lost 3⅞ to 55⅞.

Volume leader IBM dipped ⅛ to 66⅞. Digital Equipment ⅞ to 84, Texas Instruments ⅞ to 116⅞, Prime Computer ⅞ to 35 and Rolm ⅞ to 41, but Honeywell rose 1⅞ to 103⅞.

Some of the oils were firmer again. Active Atlantic Richfield added ⅞ to 62, Exxon 1⅞ to 79⅞, Mobil 1⅞ to 79⅞ and Union Oil of California ⅞ to 41⅞.

US commodities

SILVER futures held marginal gains of five cents at the close. Floor brokers noted that the market has paused on a critical support line of $15.00 an ounce which, if broken, might trigger a rapid decline to year ago lows. The pace-setting March delivery settled at $15.35 an ounce after finding support for the second day at $15.05.—Jan, 1498.00c: Feb, 1505.00c: March, 1530.00-1535.00c: May, 1579.00c: July, 1622.00-1630.00c: Sept, 1665.00c: Dec, 1720.50c: Jan, 1751.00c: March, 1783.50c: May, 1836.00c: July, 1876.50c: Sept, 1921.00c.

GOLD futures were: CHICAGO IMM: April, $662.70: June, $685.20: July, $690.50: Sept, $704.90: Oct, $712.20: Dec, $726.50: Jan, $733.70: March, $748.60: March, $661.40. NY COMEX. Jan, $562.70: Feb, $564.00-566.00: March, $573.50: April, $580.50-582.00: June, $594.50-595.50: Aug, $610.00: Oct, $625.40: Dec, $639.00-640.00: Feb, $656.30: April, $671.30: June, $685.40: Aug, $701.30: Oct, $716.60.

COPPER futures finished a largely featureless trade with prices below days' highs, up to 0.75 to 0.95 cent. Trade was moderate and steady as March settled 0.40 cent below highs at 85.60 cents, a gain of 0.80 cent. Jan, 83.75c: Feb, 83.50c: March, 86.60-85.70c: May, 87.30-87.50c: July, 91.05-91.70c: Sept, 93.35c: Dec, 96.10c: Jan, 96.70c: March, 98.50c: May, 100.10c: July, 101.70c: Sept, 103.30c.

SUGAR futures: Prices held closing losses of 0.38 to 0.52 cent following a rally from maximum 1.00-cent setbacks. March, 30.05-30.15c: May, 30.15-30.20c: July, 30.05-30.20c: Sept, 29.05c: Oct, 28.90c: Jan, 26.10c bid-26.50c asked: March, 26.10c: May, 26.10c.

COTTON futures closed with pared gains of 0.20c in spot March at 91.97c and off 0.35c to 0.15c in other months. March, 91.95c: May, 95.10c: July, 92.70c: Oct, 87.55-87.60c: Dec, 84.75-84.80c: March, 86.00c: May, 86.50 bid-87.00c asked.

COCOA futures settled $43 to $58 weaker. March, $1,963-1,923: May, $2,000-1,973: July, $2,050-2,025: Sept, $2,098-2,075: Dec, $2,151-2,150: March, $2,200-2,195.

COFFEE futures closed a moderately active session below day's highs, holding on to gains of 1.94 cents in spot March at 133.59 cents and of 1.76 to 3.05 cents in other months. Mar 81, 133.59c: May, 136.05c: July, 137.05c: Sept, 138.50c: Dec, 138.08c: Mar 82, 133.95c: May, 136.50c.

CHICAGO SOYA BEANS. Futures ended on the low side of a 13½ cent range, down 10¾ to 3¼ cents a bushel. Local buying of back month/selling nearby spreading accounted for old crop weakness relative to new crop. SOYABEANS. Jan, 811-798c: March, 834-820½c: May, 858½-846c: July, 877-865½c: Aug, 874½-865c: Sept, 867-857½c: Nov, 867-858c: Jan, 885-876c. SOYABEAN OIL ended down 0.25 to 0.02c a lb, near the bottom of a 0.33c range. Jan, 24.75-24.78c: March, 25.48-25.45c: May, 26.35-26.30c: July, 27.10c: Aug, 27.35c: Sept, 27.50 bid-27.55c asked: Oct, 27.75c: Dec, 28.00 bid-28.05c asked: Jan, 28.00 bid-28.05c asked: March, 28.30 bid-28.30c asked. SOYABEAN MEAL fell $4.10 to $0.50 a ton. Jan, 231.00-230.50: March, 239.00-239.30: May, 247.00-246.80: July, 251.80: Aug, 252.50 bid-253.00 asked: Sept, 253.00-253.50: Oct, 249.50 bid-250.50 asked: Dec, 251.50: Jan, 253.00 bid-254.00 asked.

CHICAGO GRAINS.—Wheat futures closed up ¼ to 3½ cents a bushel. Prices settled near the middle of a 6½ cent range. Corn futures finished down ¾c a bushel to up ½c in choppy trade. Prices settled near the bottom of a 4c range with most contracts posting gains. WHEAT.—March, 502-495½c: May, 511¼-505½c: July, 501½-495½c: Sept, 513-507½c: Dec, 530-524½c. CORN.—March, 377½-375c: May, 384-381½c: July, 389½-382½c: Sept, 377½-375c: Dec, 371½-367½c: March, 381½-378½c. OATS.—March, 226½-224½c: May, 230-227½c: July, 225½-224½c: Sept, 225¾-221c: Dec, 225-224c.

	Jan 13	Jan 12
[illegible]		

Canadian Prices

[illegible]

• Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. b Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Foreign exchange.—Sterling, spot $2.3920 (2.3965); three months, $2.4195 (2.4195); Canadian dollar $1.1870 (1.1896).

The Dow Jones spot commodity index was not available (443.66). The futures index was not available (467.21).

The Dow Jones averages.—Industrials, 955.10 (968.77); transportation 387.18 (385.34); utilities 112.49 (112.85), 65 stocks, 369.52 (370.80).

New York Stock Exchange index, 76.35 (76.52); industrials 85.28 (89.53); transportation, 73.64 (73.56); utilities, 38.44 (38.61); financial, 70.66 (71.23).

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Authorized Unit Trusts

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]					
		Crescent Unit Trust Managers Ltd.			
		4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh.		031-226 4931	
41.9	25.2	American Fnd	38.0	41.0	0.91
70.9	58.9	International	73.9	79.8	1.80
[illegible]					
		Irish Life Assurance,			
		11 Finsbury Sq, London, EC2.		01-628 8253	
245.4	238.5	Prop Modules	227.9	239.1	..
[illegible]					
		Prudential Pensions Ltd.			
		Holborn Bars, EC1N 2NH.		01-405 9222	
36.10	28.80	Equity	£36.10	37.28	..
[illegible]					
		Vanbrugh Life Assurance Ltd.			
		41-43 Maddox St, London, W1R 9LA.		01-499 4923	
195.5	167.4	Managed Fund	193.1	[illegible]	..
338.8	259.4	Do Equity	309.7	326.1	..
[illegible]					

Stock Exchange Prices

Equities continue to drift

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 12. Dealings End, Jan 23. § Contango Day, Jan 26. Settlement Day, Feb 2

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

1980/81 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
SHORTS							
99¼	89½	Treas	3% 1979-81	99½	•..	3.531	14.125
99⅞	89	Treas	9¼% 1981	99⅞	..	9.329	13.653
97⅞	91	Exch	8¼% 1981	97⅞	+⅛	8.430	13.793
98⅛	91	Exch	9½% 1981	96⅛	•+⅛	9.683	13.375
94¼	85½	Exch	3% 1981	94¼	..	3.183	13.316
100¼	93⅜	Exch	12¾% 1981	99⅜	..	12.774	12.945
96⅜	88	Treas	8½% 1980-82	96⅜	•..	8.825	12.542
93½	81¾	Treas	3% 1982	93½	•+¼	3.209	9.452
102¾	90½	Treas	14% 1982	100¾	−⅛	13.904	13.348
94⅜	85⅞	Treas	8¼% 1982	93⅞	−⅛	8.769	12.983
94⅜	85¾	Exch	9¼% 1982	97⅛	−⅛	9.554	13.409
93¼	84½	Exch	8¾% 1983	92⅞	−⅛	9.446	13.110
87⅞	76½	Exch	3% 1983	85⅝	..	3.504	10.821
98¼	85¾	Treas	12% 1983	97½	..	12.308	13.366
93½	84½	Treas	9¼% 1983	92¼	•−⅛	10.027	12.990
102¼	94¼	Exch	13½% 1983	100⅝	+⅛	13.417	13.215
93⅞	84½	Exch	10% 1983	92⅜	−⅛	10.832	13.281
84¼	76½	Fund	5½% 1982-84	84½	•..	6.509	11.774
97⅜	86½	Exch	11¼% 1984	94⅜	−¼	11.913	13.523
104⅜	94½	Exch	14% 1984	101⅜	−⅛	13.733	13.256
79¼	68¾	Exch	3% 1984	78⅜	..	3.810	10.545
99⅜	88	Treas	12% 1984	96½	−¼	12.435	13.201
109¼	97⅜	Treas	15% 1985	105	−¼	14.284	13.341
73½	68⅜	Treas	3% 1985	73⅛	..	4.056	10.518
MEDIUMS							
103¼	89½	Exch	12¼% 1985	96⅜	−⅛	12.637	13.107
97⅞	93½	Exch	11¾% 1986	96½	..	12.472	13.348
89⅞	78⅞	Treas	8¼% 1984-86	85	+⅛	10.014	12.389
105⅞	90⅜	Exch	13¼% 1987	98⅝	•+⅛	13.401	13.537
81½	70¼	Fund	6½% 1985-87	73⅛	+⅛	8.396	11.668
97¼	91⅛	Treas	12% 1987	94⅞	+⅛	13.047	13.854
83	71⅞	Treas	7¾% 1985-88	77⅛	•+⅛	10.018	12.734
64⅝	54⅞	Trans	3% 1978-88	61⅜	+⅛	4.828	10.563
98	82⅞	Treas	11½% 1987	91⅛	+⅛	13.197	14.202
66¼	57¼	Treas	5% 1986-89	64⅛	+⅛	7.938	11.927
104¼	89⅛	Treas	13% 1990	95⅛	•+⅛	13.667	13.977
87	69½	Treas	8¼% 1987-90	76½	+⅛	10.934	12.617
95¼	81⅞	Treas	11¾% 1991	86⅞	+⅛	13.550	14.294

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

C—E

F—H

I—L

M—N

O—S

T—Z

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
346	178	Brit & Comm	295	−1	17.9	6.1	7.4
208	118½	Fisher J.	158	..	2.9	1.8	13.0
41	31	Jacobs J. I.	35½	+½	3.1	8.8	..
137	85½	Ocean Trans	116	..	12.7	11.0	13.9
137	105	P & O 'Dfd'	115	+1½	10.0	8.6	7.1

MINES

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
16½	8½	Anglo Am Coal	£15	..	83.5	5.6	..
892	485	Anglo Am Corp	658	+7	48.0	7.3	..
59¼	30¼	Ang Am Gold	£48⅞	+½	501	10.3	..
56⅝	40½	Anglo Am Inv	£44½	−¼	161	3.6	..
22	13¼	Anglo Transvl	£20	..	144	7.2	..
22	13¼	Do 'A'	£20	..	144	7.2	..
25	13½	Asarco	£16½	−⅛	58.4	3.5	..
73	43	Beralt Tin	56	..	7.1	12.8	..
13½	4⅝	Blyvoors	£7½	+⅛	196	26.5	..
277	134	Bracken Mines	167	−5	47.4	28.4	..
28⅝	11⅝	Buffelsfontein	£17⅛	−⅛	419	24.2	..
283	137	Charter Cons	196	−5	12.0	6.1	..
652	411	Cons Gold Fields	488	−5	32.1b	6.6	..
553	388	De Beers 'Dfd'	394	+5	43.2	11.0	..

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
48	25	Calcutta Elec	28	..	7.0	25.0	..
33½	25½	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£23½	..	500	14.9	..
27½	19	Gt Nthn Tele	£22	..	153	7.0	8.1
353	137	Imp Cont Gas	245	−5	10.1	4.1	12.6
185	98	Milford Docks	98	−3	9.8	10.0	..
136	88	Nesco Inv	123	+1	10.0	8.1	..
33½	28½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£33½	..	538	16.1	..

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Allied London Prop 8½% Cnv 1999 (‡)	£2 prem
Bell A. 9½% Conv 1999-2001	£95¾
Chester Water 9% Red Pref 1985 (†)	£107
Damson Oil Com Stk	£5⅜+⅛
Dunbar Group £1 Ord (303)	445
East Anglian Water 9% Red Pref 1985 (†)	£107
East Worcester Water 9% Red Pref 1985 (†)	£107
Essex Water 8¾% Red Pref 1985 (†b)	£105
Exchequer 12% 'A' 1998 (†)	£89¾+⅛
Exchequer 12¼% 'B' 1999 (†h)	£19½−⅛
Independent Inv 25p Ord (107‡)	13
Lon Merchant Secs 7¾% Cnv Ln 2000-05	£40⅝
New Tokyo Inv Trust 50p Ord	113+1
Phoenix Mining 25p Ord (25)	45
Treasury 11½% 1989 'A' (†a)	£26
Treasury 11¾% 2003-2007 'A' (†)	£87½

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Brotherhood P. (115‡)	Feb 20	135f
Johnson Matthey	Mar 13	4 prem−3
Royal Insurance (320‡)	Mar 20	10 prem−7
Warren Plantations (145‡)	Feb 16	45 prem

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a £30 paid. b £10 paid. f Fully paid. g £40 paid. h £20 paid.

Residential Property

Bargain homes in the January 'sales'

Post-Christmas blues is a phenomenon well known in the residential property market. Once people have recovered from the festive season the real winter weather sets in and few people actively search for a new home.

Yet perhaps this is the time of year when would-be purchasers should don wellingtons and raincoats and search for a bargain or two. After all, January is the traditional sales month in stores across the country.

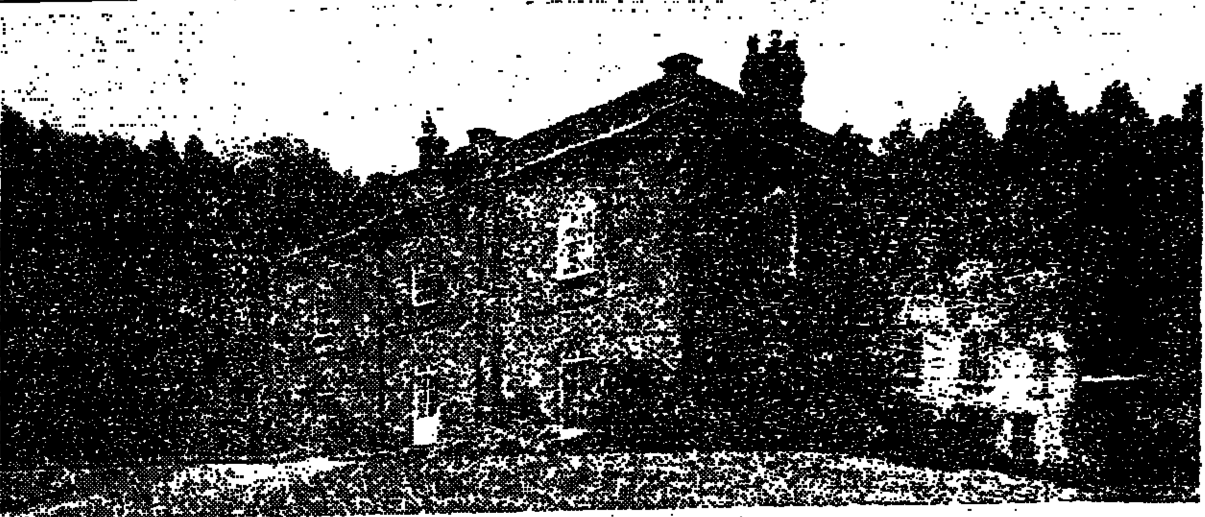
It seems Chesshire Gibson & Co, the Birmingham agents, have entered into the spirit of sale time with a delightful Queen Anne hall in the Midlands near Lichfield. Known as Swinfen Hall, the eighteenth-century mansion which has 112 rooms is on the market through the agents for a mere £85,000.

Built in 1755, the estate was bought by a member of the Swinfen family early in the last century for £19,030 and remained with the Swinfens until just after the last war.

Since then it has changed hands twice and remained largely unused, although the agents point out it is still in good condition despite a shortage of occupants over the past few years.

Splendid as Swinfen Hall undoubtedly is, the cost of running and maintaining such a home would be enormous in its present form.

With this in mind, Chesshire Gibson say Swinfen would be suitable for a variety of uses, subject, naturally, to the appropriate planning permission.



The 320-acre Whitehouse sporting estate in Herefordshire has been sold through Humberts, and Russell Baldwin & Bright for around £250,000.

Set in 4.5 acres of grounds, the hall has good access to Lichfield, Birmingham city centre, Birmingham airport and the National Exhibition Centre. It may prove to be an attractive proposition to a developer with a view to converting Swinfen Hall into a number of flats rather than offices. Certainly the front façade and sweeping drive would make impressive homes.

Also impressive, but substantially more practical, is the Whitehouse Estate located in Herefordshire's "Golden Valley", between Hereford and the Black Mountains. The ink is still drying on the contracts of this sweeping estates; contracts were only exchanged late Monday afternoon.

It had been on the market since last August through Humberts and Hereford agents Russell, Baldwin & Bright at around £250,000. The price being paid by clients of Knight, Frank & Rutley has not been disclosed but it is probably not far short of the asking figure.

There is no doubt that the main house at the heart of the estate is certainly unusual. In the words of one agent it has an almost Jekyll and Hyde appearance. The main house actually consists of two houses joined together. At the front is a large Georgian property consisting of three main reception rooms and six bedrooms, while the Elizabethan house at the rear has two receptions an dthree bedrooms.

But the real attraction of the estate is the 320-acre sporting grounds in which it is set. Included in the estate are three let farms producing £3,280 a year income, in hand forestry, fishing and shooting over 590 acres. The farming element of the estate is mixed and includes arable land varying from Grade 1 to Grade 2 as well as pasture for sheep and a small dairy.

Also included on the estate are three vacant possession cottages well situated to have excellent views of the surrounding countryside. The agents point out that two of the cottages would make an excellent conversion into a single dwelling.

The estate dates back 900 years. It was described in the Domesday Book under Stradel Hundred and formed part of the lands belonging to the Canons of Hereford. At the turn of the seventeenth-century it was occupied by Roland Vaughan who was well known for designing a sophisticated drainage system in the Golden Valley.

In stark contrast to the tranquillity of Herefordshire, Bargets, the London agents, report what they claim to be the highest price paid for a four-bedroom modern townhouse in north-west London. Sold for £175,000 Bargets say it took only 21 days from the time the sale was agreed to the new owners moving in.

Coincidentally both the vendor and the purchaser came from Hongkong with a Mr Woo selling the property to Mr Wu.

Baron Phillips

Property

Lane Fox and Partners

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Leeds 17 miles, A1/M62 8 miles

THE GATEFORTH HALL ESTATE: Near Selby

including The Impressive Late Georgian Mansion House with extensive accommodation in good order and 11½ acres. DISCLOSED RESERVE PRICE £25,000. 3 Detached Lodge Cottages and 2 further Cottages. Coach House & Farmbuildings for Conversion. Wall Kitchen Garden. 2 Paddocks, 23½ Acres of Woodland.

For Sale by Auction in 13 Lots on Thursday, 29th January

LANE FOX & PARTNERS, Banbury Office.

WILBYS, 18 Ropergate, Pontefract, W. Yorks. Tel. 0977 71406

HAMPSHIRE—NR. HARTLEY WINTNEY

Basingstoke 9 miles, Reading 11 miles, London 38 miles

AN IDEAL SMALL FAMILY HOUSE. Well situated in unspoilt countryside on edge of village.

4 Reception Rooms, 5 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms. Gas-fired Central Heating. Garage, Delightful Garden. 2 Paddocks. ABOUT 8½ ACRES. FOR SALE BY AUCTION on 19th February, 1981 (unless previously sold) by

LANE FOX & PARTNERS, London Office.

HAMPSHIRE-SURREY BORDER

Farnham 2½ miles, Fleet 4½ miles, Basingstoke 8 miles, M3 5 miles, London 41 miles

AN ATTRACTIVE SMALL MAINLY PERIOD COUNTRY HOUSE. In an Outstanding Position Amidst Open Farmland.

Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Study, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom. Oil-fired Central Heating. Useful Outbuildings. Attractive Garden. About ½ Acre.

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY

LANE FOX & PARTNERS, London Office.

and Messenger May & Baverstock, 4 Castle St., Farnham, Surrey. (Tel: Farnham 714164)

OXON/WARKS BORDERS, Banbury 3 miles, Warwick 17 miles. The major part of Hanwell Castle, dating from the XVth Century and delightfully situated on edge of village. Hall, 4 Receptions, 6 Bedrooms, Dressing Room, 3 Bathrooms. Oil c.h. Attractive grounds, including paddock, woodland and lake. 13 acres in all. For Sale Freehold. Lane Fox & Partners, Banbury Office

SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. Banbury 10 miles. A Cleverly Restored Stone Built Period Cottage, quietly situated in small village and with well planned accommodation. 2 Receptions, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, 2/3 Bedrooms, Bathroom. Full Oil-fired c.h. Attractive garden. Price £37,950 Freehold. Lane Fox & Partners, Banbury Office.

London Office: 36 North Audley Street, London, W.1. Tel. 01-499 4785

Banbury Office: Middleton Cheney, Banbury, Oxon. Tel. 0295 710592

Bernard Thorpe and Partners

GWENT

Abergavenny 2 miles. Newport/M4 20 miles

Set in secluded surroundings on the fringe of the Brecon Beacons National Park

A MAGNIFICENT COUNTRY RESIDENCE

well suited also for use as offices, institutional or hotel purposes.

Porch, reception hall, 4 reception rooms, usual domestic offices. 7 principal bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and 6 secondary bedrooms. Oil central heating. Double garage, greenhouses.

Lawns and wooded grounds extending to about 8 acres

OFFERS INVITED AROUND £120,000

Additional 11 acres pastureland available.

ABERGAVENNY OFFICE, 1 CROSS STREET, ABERGAVENNY GWENT TEL. (0873) 4578

NEAR BARNET

(Central London 14 miles)

PERIOD FARMHOUSE

Quietly situated surrounded by farmland. Hall, 3 Reception rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Tack room, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Attic. Good range of farmbuildings and stabling.

About 7½ Acres Paddocks

IN ALL ABOUT 9 ACRES

OFFERS INVITED AROUND £150,000

BIDWELLS chartered surveyors

BRAY-ON-THAMES

Three storey town house on exclusive Thames side development with benefit of moorings in this delightful village. Hall, cloakroom, kitchen/dining room, sitting room facing south on to full length balcony with French windows, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, gas c.h., ample fitted cupboards. Integral garage. Fine communal gardens with river frontage over 400 feet and facilities for boating. Leasehold (84 years).

£60,000 o.n.o.

Tel: Maidenhead (0628) 27249

Hamnett Raffety Chartered Surveyors

BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTORS OF JOHN BRAZIL DEC'D.

SHARDELOES ESTATE

Between Amersham & Great Missenden, London 26 miles

A CHILTERN FARMING ESTATE OF 1,141 ACRES
Fine Period House and Water Mill
5 Valuable Stock & Arable Farms
From 17 Acres to 388 Acres
3 Farmhouses & 6 Cottages
Freehold With Vacant Possession
(Subject to Service Tenancies)
FOR SALE BY AUCTION ON 26th MARCH, 1981
as a whole or in 14 Lots (unless previously sold)
Illustrated Particulars Amersham Office. Tel: (02403) 5536

NEWNHAM FARMHOUSE

Outskirts Wallingford, quick access to Didcot (HST to Paddington)

Beautiful Surrounding Countryside with river frontage to the Thames. Charming period farmhouse, 2 Reception rooms, Study, 5 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Oil C.H. Cottage: 2 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Living room, Bathroom, Superb period beamed barn and other outbuildings, 5 acres including paddock. For early sale. Offers around £110,000 Freehold. Joint Agents: Buckell & Ballard, Wallingford (0491) 36851, Hamnett Raffety, High Wycombe Office, Tel: (0494) 21234. Telex 83544 Hamraf G.

GREAT MISSENDEN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Excellent London Communication

Pleasant Farmhouse with Period Barn and Outbuildings, part converted to form: Study, Sitting room, Office etc., 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom, 2 Reception rooms, Staff Flat with Living room, Bedroom, Kitchen and Bathroom. ¾ acre. Early possession. Offers around £110,000 Freehold. High Wycombe Office Tel: (0494) 21234. Telex 83544 Hamraf G.

PROPERTY WANTED

WANTED approx. 16 BEDROOMS 10 ACRES

A property in any part of Southern England providing above (or more). Could be small hotel, nursing home or private house. Please contact ROBIN HOLMWOOD & ASSOCIATES The Country Estate Agency, Corscombe, Dorset DT2 0PF. Tel: (093 589) 853.

LARGE COUNTRY HOUSE.—Or complex required. 8/16 bedrooms. Minimum 5 acres. Gloucester/Ledbury area. Tel. Cheltenham (0242) 22486.

REQUIRED NOW. Detached house, non-estate, 3-4 bedrooms, garage, outbuildings; up to 75 miles London. With easy access. Around £50,000.—Box 2334 F. The Times.

LONDON FLATS

W.1. Fab. s/c 2 bed flat, recep/diner, c.h., fully furn.: L/H £50,000.—Global Property M & S Ltd., 247 6101/1553.

S.W.11. 1st floor flat overlooking Battersea Park: 5 rooms, k. and b.: £53,000.—223 5610 (eves.).

LAND FOR SALE

S. W. FRANCE.—Land, 11,000 sq. metres. Beautiful Lot region, village of Les Roques. Panoramic views. Contact: Agence Dominic Locquin, Blvd Gambetta, Cahors 46003.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Readers are strongly advised to seek legal advice before parting with any money or signing any agreement to acquire land or property overseas.

COTE D'AZURE.—Charming house in medieval village. Fabulous balcony, view Cap D'Antibes, Nice. Living room large open fire, kitchen/dining, bathroom/W.C. Principal bedroom with shower room, 2nd bedroom/W.C. off. FF 850,000 to include certain furnishings. Details M. Dawson, Leaven Hall, Leavenheath, Colchester.

CORFU.—Beautiful old House for sale in N.E. of island. Carefully restored by English owners to preserve its period Greek character. Stands alone among hillside olive groves. Fantastic views to Albania. Only few minutes walk down to village and sea. 2 bed rooms, front hall and large living room with old polished flagstones, kitchen, mod. cons., etc.—Box 2246 F. The Times.

INVEST in America's Finest City. Sunny San Diego, California. All kinds of properties available.—"Mission Accomplished" Realty, 8332 Finley, La Mesa, CA 92041, U.S.A.

NEW HOMES

CAMBRIDGESHIRE, WISBECH. New detached 3 bedroom houses from £21,600 complete with gas central heating, fitted kitchen with walk-in pantry, half-tiled utility, fully tiled coloured bathroom, 2 w.c.s. Ideal retirement area. Convenient for Norfolk coast. Photographs and brochure on request. Allison Contractors Ltd., Dept. TM, West Elloe Avenue, Spalding, Lincs. Tel. 0775 4701.

Appointments

GENERAL VACANCIES

GREEK ORIENTED?

We are looking for hard working conscientious representatives in Corfu and Crete next summer. Driving licence and good working knowledge of Greek language essential. Previous experience of this kind of work an advantage, and/or first-hand knowledge of Greece, in particular Corfu or Crete. Office experience and typing useful. Applicants should be able to use initiative, and handle a crisis on their own. They should also expect to work during high season months under pressure—and often up to 12 hours a day in the hot sun. Age 25+ preferred. This is a super job for the right person—those purely wanted a free ticket to the sun should NOT apply! Write with C.V. and contact telephone number—or telephone: Mrs Sadler, CORFU VILLAS LIMITED, 43 Cheval Place, London S.W.7. 01-581 0851.

DO YOU ENJOY A CHALLENGE?

Are you an Interviewer/Sales Person, with some experience seeking a job which involves using your initiative and personality?

Do you possess drive and a determination to succeed, no matter what? Then we could well have the position for you. The job involves starting a new division placing permanent and temporary general office and secretarial staff, with the added specialisation of graduate recruitment. Preferably, we would like an experienced person 25-35, but training will be given.

The rewards (for succeeding) are unlimited, offer job satisfaction, opportunities for promotion ...

EXPERIENCED BOOK-KEEPER required to take charge of Accounts Dept. of Riverside Studios, Hammersmith. Apply in writing with details of previous experience to: The Director, Riverside Studios, Crisp Rd., London, W.6.

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LEGAL NOTICES also on page 16

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(continued on page 24)

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Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

PERSONAL CHOICE

Eileen Atkins in Sons and Lovers (BBC 2, 9.25).

● I was constantly reminded, as I watched part one of Trevor Griffiths's dramatization of Sons and Lovers (BBC 2, 9.25) that the best thing an adaptor can do when transferring D. H. Lawrence to another medium is to do as little as possible. It is permissible, because of pint-and-quart-pot consideration, to rearrange a sequence of events. It is not a criminal act to point up situations which, deprived of Lawrence's sinewy narrative, may need visual amplification. After that, Lawrence should be left alone: he has written perfectly serviceable film scripts without suspecting it, and Mr Griffiths is to be congratulated on his minimal meddling with Sons and Lovers. Tom Bell's thick Nottinghamshire accent apart, there is little to fault, much to praise, in tonight's scene-setting instalment. I have rarely seen drunkenness more realistically portrayed than in Mr Bell's Walter Morel, and Eileen Atkins, as Mrs Morel, makes the woman's domestic agony very moving indeed. There are of course, only token hints in this opening episode, of the avalanche of mother love that is to engulf poor Paul.

● When the Bough Breaks (BBC 2, 6.55) belongs to that category of programme, offputtingly classified as community television, which chugs along without any fuss, bother or publicity, and leaves the world a better place to live in. The effect of these 10 films on the next generation is incalculable at this stage, but one assumes it will be considerable because the films are about parents who fear that their inability to cope with their children will leave scars all round. Tonight's film explains how a mother who had a traumatic relationship with her five-year-old daughter learnt how to live more happily with her thanks to the advice she received from a family centre in Brighton.

● It never rains. . . . When the Bough Breaks is not the only example of community television on BBC 2 tonight. Sixteen Up (6.00), which attracted much attention last week with its film about teenagers and the law, tonight deals with teenagers who still live at home. Then, at 7.10, in Grapevine the former MP Helene Hayman, who always struck me as being ideal television material, presents an item on old age pensioners and the killing cold of winter.

● Let me plot your day's radio listening for you: Begin with Mozart's piano concerto No 17 (Andras Schiff and the City of Birmingham SO) on Radio 3, 11.10 am; then Woman's Hour from the National Theatre (interviews with Sir Peter Hall, Felicity Kendall) on Radio 4, 2.02; Malcolm Muggeridge looking through his Sussex window (Radio 4, 3.50); the late Alvar Lidell narrating a documentary about the BBC's monitoring service during the last war (Radio 4, 7.45); and Roy Jenkins talking to Michael Charlton (Radio 4, 8.45).

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

TELEVISION

BBC 1

12.45 pm News. And weather forecast.
1.00 Pebble Mill at One: The different types of holiday available at home and abroad for disabled people. Also, a well-known personality prepares something tasty in the kitchen; 1.45 Trumpton: Brian Cant tells the *story of Miss Lovelace and the* Mayor's Hat (r). Closedown at 2.00.
3.25 Delia Smith's Cookery Course: Making cakes (r). 3.55 Play School: Marion Walter's story Make a Bigger Puddle, Make *a Smaller Worm, with her own* illustrations.
4.20 Laurel and Hardy: Tragic Magic. An American cartoon. For the genuine model, see BBC 2 at 5.40; 4.25 Jackanory: Bernard Holley reads part 3 of Joan *Eadington's Jonny Briggs* and the Great Razzle-Dazzle.
4.40 Take Hart: New series, with Tony Hart. Including the animated paint-pot family The Tin-Pots, and the art of picture-making, using *everything from salt and twigs to* ping-pong balls; 5.00 John Craven's Newsround: mini-newsreel for the younger viewer, but intelligent adults are not excluded.
5.05 The Strange Affair of Adelaide Harris: Episode 3 of *Leon Garfield's story, adapted by* Robin Miller. Set in an academy for young gentlemen.
5.40 News: with Kenneth Kendall; 5.55 Nationwide: regional variations until 6.20, when the programme goes on the whole network.
6.55 Triangle: Episode 4 of Luanshya Greer's drama serial about a fictional *shipping line*. A suicide note from a passenger. With Kate O'Mara, Michael Craig.
7.20 Film: Beneath the Twelve Mile Reef (1953) Underwater drama about sponge divers and the dangers they encounter. With Gilbert Roland and Robert Wagner as father and son. Also starring Terry Moore. Director: Robert D. Webb.
9.00 News: with Jan Leeming. Also weather forecast.
9.25 *Sportsnight*: The best of the action from one of tonight's Cup football matches. Also, Eric Bristow battles to retain his title in the quarter finals of the Embassy World Professional Darts Championship. And England's prospects for the tour of the West Indies.
10.50 Parkinson: His guests are *Lord Denning, Harry Secombe* and Wynford Vaughan-Thomas.
11.50 News headlines. And weather forecast.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS BBC CYMRU/Wales 1.45 pm-2.0 Mister Men. 5.5-5.40 Grange Hill. 5.55-6.20 Wales Today. 6.55-7.15 Heddiw. 7.15-7.40 Triangle. 7.40-8.10 Seconds Out. 8.10-9.0 Star Trek. 11.5C News and weather for Wales. Close. Scotland: 12.40 pm-12.45 Scottish News. 5.55-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 9.25-10.50 Sportscene. 11.50 News and weather for Scotland. Close. Northern Ireland: 3.53 pm-3.55 Northern Ireland News. 5.55-6.20 Scene Around Six. 11.50 News and weather for Northern Ireland. Close. *England*: 5.55 pm-6.20 Regional Magazines. 11.55 Close.

BBC 2

10.20 am Gharbar: For Asian women viewers. A *magazine* programme. Closedown at 10.45.
11.00 Play School: The same as BBC 1, 3.55. Closedown at 11.25.
5.40 pm Laurel and Hardy: Me and My Pal (1933) The jigsaw puzzle which *Stanley gives to* Oliver as a wedding present so absorbs them that the nuptials never take place. *James Finlayson* plays the poor bride's father.
6.00 Sixteen Up: Second film in *this new series for teenagers.* The pressures on youngsters who have to live at home as they become *independent adults. Girl students* at a school act out the conflicts. (See Personal Choice.)
6.25 The Master Game: *Second* chess game in the BBC's Master Game Trophy. Robert Byrne, of *the United States, plays Vlastimil* Hort of Czechoslovakia. Expert analysis is provided by William Hartston and we hear the spoken thoughts of the players as they make their moves.
6.55 When the Bough Breaks: A family centre in Brighton, and the kind of help it offers to parents who cannot cope with their children. With John Thaw. (See Personal Choice).
7.10 Grapevine: New series begins. These are social action programmes, about people who organize things for themselves, break through red tape, speak up. The presenter is former MP Helene Hayman. There is also a report *on the Government's Community* Enterprise Programme. And there is the weekly feature in which information is exchanged.
7.40 News: With sub-titles for the hard of hearing.
7.50 Just a Bit of Paper: The *auction for the famous British* Guiana one cent black on magenta postage stamp.
8.00 The Magic of Dance: Second film in the Margot Fonteyn series. She visits Tchaikovsky's house outside Moscow, and talks to Dame Marie Rambert about Diaghilev. We also see Pavlova dance The Dying Swan, and Dame Margot herself is partnered by Mikhail Baryshnikov in a sequence from Petrushka (r).
9.00 M*A*S*H: Hawkeye (Alan Alda) meets his match when a beautiful Swedish doctor (Mariette Hartley) arrives to observe combat surgery. Korea war comedy.
9.25 Sons and Lovers: First episode of Trevor Griffiths's adaptation of the D. H. Lawrence novel about the rocky paths that love sometimes has to travel. With *Eileen Atkins and Tom Bell as the* ill-suited Morels (see Personal Choice).
10.20 International Darts: The *first two quarter finals in the* Embassy World Professional Championship. From the Jollees Club, *Stoke-on-Trent. More at 11.30.*
10.45 Newsnight: The day's news, and detailed analysis of the main stories.
11.30 International Darts: Back to Stoke-on-Trent. Transmission ends at 12.15 am.

THAMES

9.30 am The Masterbuilders: The extraordinary achievements of that master engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel (r); 9.55 Up and Away: the art we deserve. 10.40 Story Hour: The Rocking Chair Rebellion. 11.25 A Big Country: Documentary about Australia's Snowy Mountain hydro-electric scheme (r).
11.55 Dick Tracy: Cartoon. Flea Ring Circus; 12.00 Cloppa Castle: Medieval puppet story. It is called The Good Ship Ethelbruda (r); 12.10 pm Rainbow: The story of Old King Cole, and the tale of Merry the Clown, told by *Geoffrey Hayes.*
12.30 About Britain: Water Under the Bridge. The Forth and Clyde Canal has fallen into disuse, but Daniel Brittain takes a trip along it none the less.
1.00 News; 1.20 Thames News; *1.30 Crown Court: The Crown of* Life. The jury decides in the case of a woman (Gabrielle Daye) charged with causing her paralysed husband bodily harm.
2.00 After Noon Plus: A progress report on two sisters who, to try and lose weight, have each had their jaws wired together. They *are living only on liquid foods.*
2.45 Fantasy Island: American hokum, set on an isle where dreams are sometimes made to come true. With Ricardo Montalban.
3.45 Definition: Last programme for the present. *With Gordon* Honeycombe and Jane Rossington giving the quiz contestants a helping hand.
4.15 Watch It! A cartoon about Dr Snuggles, the inventor; 4.20 Runaround: Special edition of the *Mike Reid show, in which Metal* Mickey, the robot takes part. Items on the cinema, music and deep sea diving; 4.45 Brendon Chase: Serial about three runaway brothers, living in a forest. From the Book by BB.
5.15 Gambit: General knowledge quiz, conducted by Fred Dinenage. It is based on the game of pontoon; 5.45 News; 6.00 Thames area news. 6.25 Help! A plea for an improved system for allocating benefits and allowances for the disabled.
6.35 Crossroads: Harsh words flow between Rita and Tom.
7.00 This is Your Life. Another of Eamonn Andrews's mini-*biographies, in which there is* much gasping, kissing and clapping; 7.30 Coronation Street: Hilda Ogden takes a mysterious telephone message for Rita Fairclough—and promises to keep the secret. And will Mike Baldwin *cash Fred Gee's £150 cheque?*
8.00 Max: Max Bygraves in a variety show. His guests include the late Yootha Joyce, Arthur English and the versatile Jon Pertwee.
9.00 Wolcott: Episode 2 of this thriller about a black policeman in north London. Racial warfare ends in the spilling of blood.
10.00 News; 10.30 Film: Where's Jack? (1968) Period adventure comedy-drama about Jonathan Wild (Stanley Baker), the notorious 18th century thief taker and Jack Sheppard (Tommy Steele), the locksmith's assistant who is the victim of Wild's treachery. Also starring Alan Badel, Fiona Lewis. Director: James Clavell.
12.40 Close: Richard Easton reads The Glass in the Field from Thurber's Fables for Our Time.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
7.00, 8.00 News.
7.30, 8.30 *Headlines.*
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 *Mid-Week.*
10.00 News.
10.02 Gardeners' Question Time.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Story: The End of the Season, by Peter Roberts.
11.00 News.
11.05 Baker's Dozen.†
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.27 Joke by Joke by . . . Art Buchwald.†
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: John Hates Mary, by *Owen Holder.*
3.50 Through My Window.
4.00 Choral Evensong.†
4.45 There Came Both Mist and Snow (S).
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 My Music.†
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 What Price *Astrology?*
7.45 Listening to War.
8.45 Analysis.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 Old Took's Almanac.†
11.00 Lord Jim (S).
11.15 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News.
12.15 am-12.23 Shipping forecast.
VHF
10.30 am-10.45 Listen With Mother.
11.00 pm-1.30 Study on 4: *Digame!* (11).

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Records: Mascagni, Verdi, Spohr, Franck.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Hummel, Liszt, Glazunov (Seasons).†
9.00 News.
9.05 Week's Composers: The Smetana Line.†
10.00 Piano: Schubert (D894).†
10.40 Choir, etc: Frescobaldi.†
11.10 CBSO/Barshai, pt 1: Mozart (Pno Conc 17—*Schiff*).†
11.40 Interval reading.
11.45 CBSO, pt 2: Shostakovich (Sym 8).†
1.00 pm News.
1.05 Quartet (Endellion—live from Broadcasting House): Haydn (op 76, no 5), Britten (no 3).
2.05 Music Weekly.†
2.55 *Baroque Orch/Glover*: Vivaldi.†
4.00 The Prelude, by Wordsworth (2).
4.30 Chamber music: Mozart.
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
7.00 Six Continents.
7.20 Song-drama: The Chakra-*vaka Bird, by Anthony Gilbert* (1st perf).†
8.45 Scientifically Speaking.
9.15 BBC Scottish SO/Bedford: Scriabin (Pno Conc).†
9.50 Reading: Shakespeare sonnets.
9.55 Trio (Beaux Arts): Haydn (HXV24), Dvorak (op 65).†
11.00 News.
11.05-11.15 Record: Strauss.†

Radio 2

5.00 am News, weather. 5.03 Bob Kilbey.† 7.32 Terry Wogan.† 10.03 Jimmy Young.† 12.03 pm Ray Moore.† 2.03 *Ed Stewart.*† 4.03 Much More *Music.*† 6.03 *John* Dunn.† 8.02 Football. 9.30 Semprini Serenade.† 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.02 Wit's End. 10.30 Martin Jarvis. 11.04 Brian Matthew. 2.02-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike *Read. 9.00 Steve Wright. 11.00* Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Paul Burnett. 2.32 Dave Lee Travis. 4.32 Peter Powell. 7.00 Mailbag. 8.00 Richard Skinner. 10.02 John Peel.† 12.00 Close.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 8.02 pm Listen to the Band.† 8.45 Alan Dell. 9.15 Semprini Serenade.† 10.00 With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT):

6.00 am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-four Hours. 7.45 Report on Religion. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Peebles' Choice. 8.30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Play It My Way. 10.15 Divertimento. 10.30 Robert Louis Stevenson. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 Listening Post. 11.30 The Music Party. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 pm Nature Notebook. 12.25 The Farming World. 12.45 Sports Round-up. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-four Hours. 1.30 Radio Theatre. 2.15 Report on Religion. 2.30 Aspects of the Blues. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Book Choice. 5.15 Listening Post. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-four Hours. 8.30 Assignment. 9.15 Play is My Way. 9.45 Four Hands in Harmony. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Round-up. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 A House for My Biswas. 11.30 Top Twenty. 12.00 World News. 12.09 am News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Listening Post. 12.45 Musical Memories. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Living for Faith. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 Assignment. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 John Peel. 4.00 Newsdesk. 6.45 The World Today.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. ●Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only; med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF, Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

Tyne Tees

As Thames except: Starts 9.20 am Good Word. 9.25 News. 9.30 Survival. *9.55 Showjumping with Harvey Smith.* 10.20 Friends of Man. 10.50 Stars on Ice. 11.20 Home Nursing. 11.50-12.00 Sally and Jake. 1.20 pm News. 1.25-1.30 Where the Jobs Are. 2.45-3.45 *Danger UXB. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads.* 6.25 Northern Life. 10.30 News. *10.32* Fantasy Island. 11.50-11.55 Jesus and People.

Granada

As Thames except: 9.30 am Untamed *World. 9.50 Spiderman. 10.15 Chopper Squad.* 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street. 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 2.00 Live *from* Two. 2.50-3.45 Fantasy Island. 5.15-5.45 Welcome Back Kotter. *6.00 Granada Reports. 6.25 This* is Your Right. 6.30-7.00 Crossroads. 10.30-12.30 am Film: Executioner (George Peppard).

Ulster

As Thames except: Starts 10.00 am *Laurel and Hardy*. 11.00 Little House on the Prairie. 11.50-12.00 Sally and Jake. 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.45-3.45 Young Ramsay. 4.13-4.15 News. 5.15 Cartoon. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00-7.00 Good Evening Ulster. 10.30 It's a Musical World. 11.30 WKRP in Cincinnati. 11.55-12.05 am Bedtime.

Southern

As Thames except: 9.30 am Call It Macaroni. 9.55 Chopper Squad. 10.45 Wild, Wild World of Animals. 11.15 Bailey's Bird. 11.45-12.00 Cartoon. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25 Young Ramsay. 3.20-3.45 Superstar Profile: Gregory Peck. 5.15 Betty Boop. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Day by Day. 6.35-7.00 Scene Midweek. 10.35 Film: Staircase (Richard Burton). 12.15 am Weather followed by Something Special.

Yorkshire

As Thames except: 9.30 am Indians of North America. 9.45-12.00 Film: Captain from Castile (*Tyrone Power*). 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Clearances. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 10.30-12.15 am Film: Call Harry Crown (Richard Harris).

Westward

As *Thames except: 9.30 am Amazing* Years of Cinema. 9.55 Dinah Shore. 10.10 Diary of Civilizations. 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street. 12.27 pm-12.30 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 1.20-1.30 *News.* 2.45-3.45 *Young Ramsay.* 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00-6.35 Westward Diary. 10.32 News. 10.36 Film: Fraulein Doktor (Kenneth More). 12.20 am-12.35 Faith for Life.

Channel

As Thames except: Starts 12.30 pm-1.00 About Britain. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Young Ramsay. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00-6.35 Channel Report. 10.28 News: 10.36 Film: Fraulein Doktor (Kenneth More). 12.20 am Epilogue.

Border

As Thames except: 9.30 am Friends of Man. 9.55 Inner Space. 10.25-12.00 Film: Swiss Family Robinson (Martin Milner). 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Love Boat. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround. 10.30 Baretta. 11.30-11.33 News.

Anglia

As Thames except: Starts 9.15 am Jobline. 9.30 Pavilion Folk. 9.55 Long Winter's End. 10.45 Patterns. 11.10-12.00 Star Parade. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Young Ramsay. 5.15-5.45 Alright Now. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 10.30 Film: Grapes of Wrath* (Henry Fonda, Jane Darwell). 12.40 am Big Question.

HTV

As Thames except: Starts 9.40 am Sesame Street. 10.40 Animated Classics. *11.30-12.00 Looks Familiar.* 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25-4.15 Film. Affair in Trinidad* (Rita Hayworth, Glenn Ford). 5.15 Dick Tracy. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 *Report West. 6.30-7.00 Survival.* 10.28 News. 10.30-12.15 am Film: Hagen (Chad Everett).
HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV West except: 12.00-12.10 pm Ffalabalam. *4.15-4.20 Ugly Duckling.* 4.45-5.15 Stroeon y Byd. 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales.

ATV

As Thames except: 9.30 am Nature of Things. 10.20 Bailey's Bird. 10.45 Circus. 11.10-12.00 Murphy's America. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Young Ramsay. 5.15-5.45 In Loving Memory. 6.00 News. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30-7.00 ATV Today. 10.30 News. 10.35-12.35 am Film: Hound of Hell (Richard Crenna).

Grampian

As Thames except: Starts 9.40 am First Thing. 9.45 Night Flight. 10.10 Clues. 11.05-12.00 Conflict with Harmony. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Fantasy Island. 5.15-5.45 Batman. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 10.30 Film: Soylent Green (Charlton Heston). 12.20 am Reflections. 12.25-12.30 News.

Scottish

As Thames except: 9.30 am Kosciusko. *10.20 Long Winter's End.* 11.10 Portrait of Franz Hals. 11.25 At Coming. 11.30-12.00 Bubbles. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Certain Women. 5.15 Tales of Crime. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 *Scotland Today. 6.20 Tave's Talk* Back. 6.30-7.00 Report. 10.30 Late Call. 10.35-12.20 am Film: FBI Story. Part 2 (Ned Beatty).

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Classified Rates

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Weekend Shoparound	£14.00 per cm full display, minimum 5 cms
Court Circular	£5.00 per line
Box Numbers	£5.00

"... IF THOU return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles."—Job 22: 23.

BIRTHS

ALLEN.—On January 11th, in Johannesburg, to Patsy (nee Peel Yates) and Andrew—a son (Anthony John).

BURGESS.—On January 8th 1981, at The Barrett Hospital, to Kerstin (nee Ringsby) and Graham—a son (Oliver James).

DANNATT.—On January 12th at the Duchess of Kent Military Hospital, Catterick, to Philippa (nee Gurney) wife of Major Richard Dannatt—a son (Edward Robert Samuel).

DARVELL.—On Jan. 10th, 1981, to Christine (nee Eldridge) and Murray—a gift of a daughter (Samantha), a sister for Nicholas.

FRASER.—On January 10, at the West London Hospital, to Patricia (nee McEntee) and Paul—a son, Daniel Charles McEntee. Many thanks to the staff for their care and kindness.

MAFLIN.—On January 7th, to Penny (nee Winter) and Neil—a son, Patrick William, a brother for Basil. May he always find peace.

MAYES.—On 12th January at Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot—a daughter (Allina Tamara) to Marianne (nee Mayhook) and Peter, who send their thanks to the magnificent medical staff.

NAYLOR, RACHAEL EILEEN HELEN, for Vicki (nee Sumner) and Christopher Hardy—a daughter; for Mary Rebecca and Thomas Charles Hardy, a sister, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, 11.60 p.m. Friday 9th January, 1981.

DEATHS

GRIFFITS.—On January 9th 1981, Christine devoted wife of the late Kinloch Griffits and loving mother of Peter. Service on January 16th 1981 at 11.30 a.m. Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row, followed by private Cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired to The League of Friends of The Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead.

HENDERSON.—On January 13th 1981, peacefully in her sleep, Mary (Molly) widow of Col E. (Teddy) Henderson. Service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium, on Thursday, 15th January at 10.00 am. Family flowers only to E. R. Hickmott & Sons, 41 Grove Hill, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Donations, if desired, to Help the Aged, 32 Dover Street W1A 2AP.

HIGGINS. Doctor ELIZABETH MARY JOSEPH, formerly of Wandsworth, died peacefully at home in Saltash on January 12th, fortified by the rites of the Catholic Church, aged 88. Funeral requiem at Saltash on Friday, 16th January, at 9.30 a.m. "She opened her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness was on her tongue." Proverbs 31 : 26.

HOGG.—On January 9th in Salisbury peacefully, Nancy Evelyn Lowthorpe Hogg, aged 88 years. Dear friend of Eva Manning. Funeral service on Friday 16th January at 11.30 a.m. in St. Martin's Church, Salisbury. Enquiries: c/o 16 St. Martin's Church St., Salisbury.

HUBER.—Peacefully, on Jan 10th, 1981, aged 86 years, Lawrence Edgar Huber of Roshnara, Brockley Way, Claverham. Funeral service Weston-super-Mare Crematorium, Thursday, Jan 15th, at 10.30 am. Flowers to K. C. Britton, funeral director, 10 High Street, Yatton, near Bristol.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,423

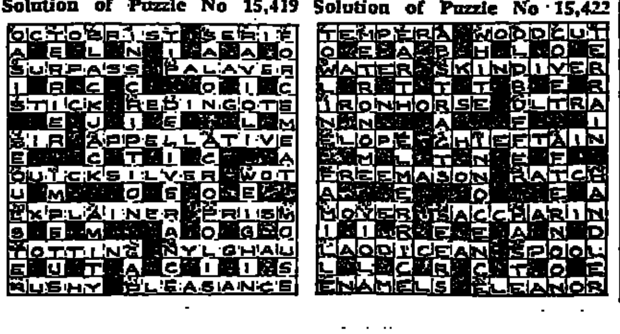
ACROSS

1 Serpentine lure (10).
6 Inactive-sounding image (4).
10 Opposes what a bad conductor does? (7).
11 One of Quixote's inclinations (7).
12 Junior scout rejected—can always become a pirate (9).
13 One's allowed a smallholding in current circumstances (5).
14 Where West Indians make a hit perhaps with one (5).
15 Other birds see wigeons perhaps, not I (4-5).
17 Heretics include men living in SW Asia (9).
20 Cloak right for a frolic (5).
21 Turner's old district of Kent (5).
23 Bright spark, firing this weapon (9).
25 Berg's pieces may be so described? (7).
26 Brummagem's miscellaneous clutter (7).
27 Great, it was, for the Boers in 1836 (4).
28 Unmarried woman, a school principal in Berkshire (10).

DOWN

1 Quiver or palpitate? Both may be about right (5).
2 One gladly takes pains to practise this (9).
3 Beast of a literary hack from Launceston? (9, 5).
4 They assay old coins (7).
5 Where Canadians train ducks possibly (7).
7 In which one may get dressed (5).
8 A great distance travelled in a giddy period (5-4).
9 Train as a North British aviator (6, 8).
14 It helps us advance, but not the reverse (9).
16 Page One is involved with undercover work (9).
18 Lucerne, a base for two lads of the same name (7).
19 Got up like an agitator (7).
22 Raise nap on rag (5).
24 Massage sounds like a requirement (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,419 Solution of Puzzle No 15,422



BE A MODEL Secretary. See Creme de la Creme today.

DETACHED HOUSE, 1 acre, nr. King's Lynn. See Country Properties.

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST, Harley Street. See Sec Vacs.

RELIGIOUS PUBLISHER requires shorthand secretary. See Secretarial vacancies.

SECRETARY/P.A. to M.D. required by Mayfair mortgage brokers. See Creme.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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(continued on page 22)

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